

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1

Post travel report by Councillor Cathy Oke: Green Surge Conference, guest lectures and meetings in Sweden and Denmark, September and COP23 and ICLEI meetings, Germany, C40 and CDP meetings, London, November 2017

12 December 2017

Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke

Purpose and background

1. To report to Council on travel undertaken by Councillor Cathy Oke to:
 - 1.1. Deliver a keynote speech at the Green Surge Conference, Malmo, Sweden, guest lectures at universities and hold meetings with city officials and agencies in Copenhagen and Stockholm about common C40 and ICLEI activities in September 2017.
 - 1.2. Participate in the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Global Executive Committee meetings in Bonn and 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) Local Leaders Summit, Germany in November 2017.
 - 1.3. Attend meetings with CDP and C40 officials in London
2. Councillor Oke is Council's representative on ICLEI and the City of Melbourne is the host city for the ICLEI Oceania regional office. Councillor Oke is the ICLEI Oceania representative on the Global Executive Committee and is also the President of the Board of ICLEI World Secretariat.

Key issues

3. The 2017 Green Surge Conference (Conference) marked the end of a four-year collaborative project between 24 partners in 11 countries which was funded by the European Union. The project sought to identify, develop and test ways of linking green spaces, biodiversity, people and the green economy in order to meet the major urban challenges related to land use conflicts, climate change adaptation, demographic changes and health and wellbeing.
4. Included as Attachment 2 is an outline of key achievements, outcomes and commitments associated with the Conference and other engagements in Denmark and Sweden. Highlights included delivery of the following:
 - 4.1. Key note speech and presentation at the Conference entitled 'Nature-Based Solutions for a Resilient City' and a workshop with ClimateKIC.
 - 4.2. Joint lecture at the University of Copenhagen on 'Biocultural Dimensions of Urban Resilience'.
 - 4.3. Presentations and workshop with City of Copenhagen on a range of common projects, Low Carbon Cities and review of Sustainable Development Goals.
 - 4.4. Presentations and dialogue with Deputy Mayor (Environment) City of Stockholm on urban greening in the private realm.
5. COP23 saw the 197 Parties gather to explore progress on implementation of the Paris Agreement. This included the Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders as well as other key meetings held concurrently such as the ICLEI GexCom.
6. Included as Attachment 3 is an outline of key achievements, outcomes and commitments associated with COP23 and related commitments. These included the following highlights:
 - 6.1. Significant recognition of the role of local government and City of Melbourne by having Councillor Oke guide proceedings, as Master of Ceremony, with over 330 political leaders and more than 1000 delegates, the first time an official cities event was held at a COP meeting venue.
 - 6.2. Demonstration that local and regional governments continue to play an active role in actions taken nationally and internationally on climate change.
 - 6.3. Issuing of the Bonn-Fiji Commitment which pledged to take further and faster action to deliver the Paris Agreement at all levels of government.

Recommendation

7. That Council notes the report by Councillor Cathy Oke on travel undertaken to:
 - 7.1. Sweden and Denmark in September 2017 to deliver a keynote speech at the Green Surge Conference, guest lectures and hold meetings with city officials and agencies.
 - 7.2. Germany in November 2017 to participate in COP23 and ICLEI related meetings held concurrently followed by meetings in London with C40 and CDP representatives.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 16)
2. Key achievements, outcomes and commitments – Sweden and Denmark (Page 4 of 16)
3. Key achievements, outcomes and commitments – Germany (Page 11 of 16)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The travel undertaken by Councillor Oke was funded in the following manner:
 - 1.1. All Sweden and Denmark travel costs were covered by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and privately by Councillor Oke.
 - 1.2. Germany travel costs were jointly funded by ICLEI, Council and privately by Councillor Oke. The cost to Council will be up to \$2573.02 which covers partial airfares, accommodation for two nights (meetings in London) and some incidentals. The figure is subject to a reconciliation process with ICLEI and the final confirmed amount will be included in the updated travel register published on Council's website in January 2018.

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 proposed travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
4. The objectives of the proposed travel align with the Council Plan goal of *A City that cares for its environment* and a range of environmental and sustainability strategies and policies.

Environmental sustainability

5. Councillor Oke's invitations to play key roles at Green Surge and COP23 allowed the City of Melbourne to participate in discussions that further Council's sustainability objectives and promotes Melbourne's reputation as a global leader in initiatives on environmental sustainability and resilience. It also promoted Council's Annual Plan Initiative to seek collaborations between global partners C40, ICLEI, Resilient Melbourne, Global Covenant of Mayors for Energy and CDP, and assessment of our strategies against the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to attend the program will be offset with the purchase of credits.

GREEN SURGE CONFERENCE, MALMO, SWEDEN, GUEST LECTURES AND MEETINGS COPENHAGEN AND STOCKHOLM, SEPTEMBER 2017

Overview of key achievements and outcomes

- **Melbourne's profile:** Recognition of the leadership by the City of Melbourne (CoM) in sustainability and resilience by having Councillor Oke delivering the keynote presentation at the Green Surge Conference.
- **Leadership:** An opportunity to promote CoM's world leading approach to nature based solutions for a resilient city to an audience involved in a collaborative project between 24 partners in 11 countries. Councillor Oke shared with delegates the three key factors which underpin the successful adoption and implementation of CoM strategies, namely evidence based approach, water management and community engagement.
- **Learnings:** Participation in the Conference and increased awareness of the project will allow the CoM to gain greater insight and access to the projects expected results, namely:
 - Development and testing of ways of linking urban green spaces, biodiversity, people and the green economy at the local, city regional and European level.
 - Providing a sound evidence base for urban green infrastructure planning and implementation, exploring the potential for innovation in better linking ecosystem services with local communities.
 - Applying an innovative biocultural diversity perspective to develop successful governance arrangements facilitating socio-ecological integration and local engagement in urban green infrastructure planning and governance.
 - Development, testing and implementation of Learning Alliances in five Urban Learning Labs to assist innovative planning, governance and valuation approaches.
 - Production of a Manual for Urban Green Infrastructure Planning; policy briefs; Urban Learning Lab Interfaces, web-based portals at the European and local level that will include biocultural diversity and urban green infrastructure databases and forecasting information; and a learning module on the economics of urban green space.
 - Identification of good practice and provide guidelines for, and together with, decision-makers, planners, and other stakeholders.
- **Recognition:** Further international recognition of the role of CoM by having Councillor Oke deliver a joint lecture at the University of Copenhagen as part of the Copenhagen Landscape Lectures. Councillor Oke delivered the lecture with Flemming Rafn Thomsen, a Danish architect. The lecture on 'Biocultural dimensions of urban resilience' was part of a series of lectures aimed bringing an international perspective to current debates on urban nature and climate resilience, examining tensions and opportunities in urban nature planning and design. Councillor Oke shared CoM's climate adaption strategy with a focus on Melbourne's ecosystem and place-based approach to urban biodiversity and urban greening.
- **Melbourne, the talking point:** Councillor Oke's presentation and CoM approach generated strong social media commentary associated with the Conference. #GreenSurgeMalmo references on twitter totalled 187 with 33 mentioning the CoM or Councillor Oke's presentation. Included later in this report is a sample of tweets referencing the presentation. A link to #GreenSurgeMalmo commentary can be found here <https://twitter.com/search?q=greensurgemalmo&src=typd>

Summary of key commitments

Green Surge Conference, Malmo 'Urban Green Infrastructure – Connecting People and Nature for Sustainable Cities

- Keynote presentation on Day 1 of the Conference. Theme: 'Nature based solutions for a resilient city.'
- Panel participant in session 'Policy, Practice and Research moderated by Professor Cecil K. van den Bosch, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- Participation in the session 'Urban Woodlands and Trees' moderated by Thomas Randrup, Swedish University of Agricultural Science
- Conference program and Green Surge project details can be found at <http://greensurge.eu/international-conference/>
- Repeat presentation provided to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

City of Copenhagen

- Meetings with officials at the City of Copenhagen which included a presentation on Citywide strategies.

City of Malmo and University of Lund

- Meetings with officials at the City of Malmo University of Lund including presentations on nature based solutions and an opportunity for Councillor Oke to share CoM insights and lessons.

University of Copenhagen

- Delivery of joint lecture at the University of Copenhagen as part of the Copenhagen Landscape Lectures.
- Details of the Lecture series can be found at <http://ign.ku.dk/forskning/landskabsarkitektur-planlaegning/landskabsarkitektur-urbanisme/copenhagen-landscape-lectures/>

City of Stockholm

- Meeting with officials at the City of Stockholm including the Vice Mayor Katarina Luhr
- Visit City of Stockholm's temporary food hall (pavilion) as part of redevelopment of the Ostermalms Saluhall. Traders have been relocated to a temporary pavilion at Ostermalmstorg while market hall renovations are undertaken. Further details can be found here <http://vaxer.stockholm.se/projekt/renovering-och-utveckling-av-ostermalmshallen/http://www.ostermalmshallen.se/en/building-the-new-food-hall/>
- Discussion regarding the City's 'Strategy for a Fossil-Fuel Free Stockholm by 2040', details of which can be found here <http://international.stockholm.se/globalassets/rapporter/strategy-for-a-fossil-fuel-free-stockholm-by-2040.pdf>

#GreenSurgeMalmö

Sample feedback on twitter regarding Councillor Oke's presentation

Peter Massini @PeterMassini · 20/09/2017
 @cathyoke of @cityofmelbourne - a 'knowledge-broker' bridging gap between research and policy #greensurgemalmo



City of Melbourne: Nature-Based Solutions for a Resilient City

ICLEI Europe @ICLEIEurope · 20/09/2017
 Keynote @cathyoke emphasises the important role of #ICLEI and other city networks at #greensurgemalmo



CLIMATE ADAPTATION 60+ MILLION 2010-2017

Frazer McNaughton @FrazerMcN · 20/09/2017
 Impressive clarity of purpose and outcomes sought from public policy for sustainable city growth in Melbourne #GreenSurgeMalmö



ECOSYSTEM-BASED CLIMATE ADAPTATION 60+ MILLION 2010-2017

OneBigRiver @OneBigRiver · 20/09/2017
 #GreenSurgeMalmö Cathy Oke Melbourne 4degC heat reduction target: Urban Forest strategy - each tree has email address



Åsa Hellström @Asa_Hell · 20/09/2017
 So impressed by the work done in #Melbourne and by @cathyoke Looking forward to connect even more tomorrow #GreenSurgeMalmö



LIVABLE CONNECTED WITH NATURE

Chloe Bellamy @BoBellamy · 20/09/2017
 Melbourne tree data portal: all 70,000 trees mapped with genus, life expectancy & tree email address to report issues 🌱 #greensurgemalmo



Scot Mathieson @scot_nature_boy · 20/09/2017
 Cathy Oke's #GreenSurgeMalmö pres on nature-based solutions for a resilient Melbourne would be of interest to @TerryAHearn @MaWackernagel



CLIMATE CHANGE DIRECTLY IMPACTS MELBOURNE

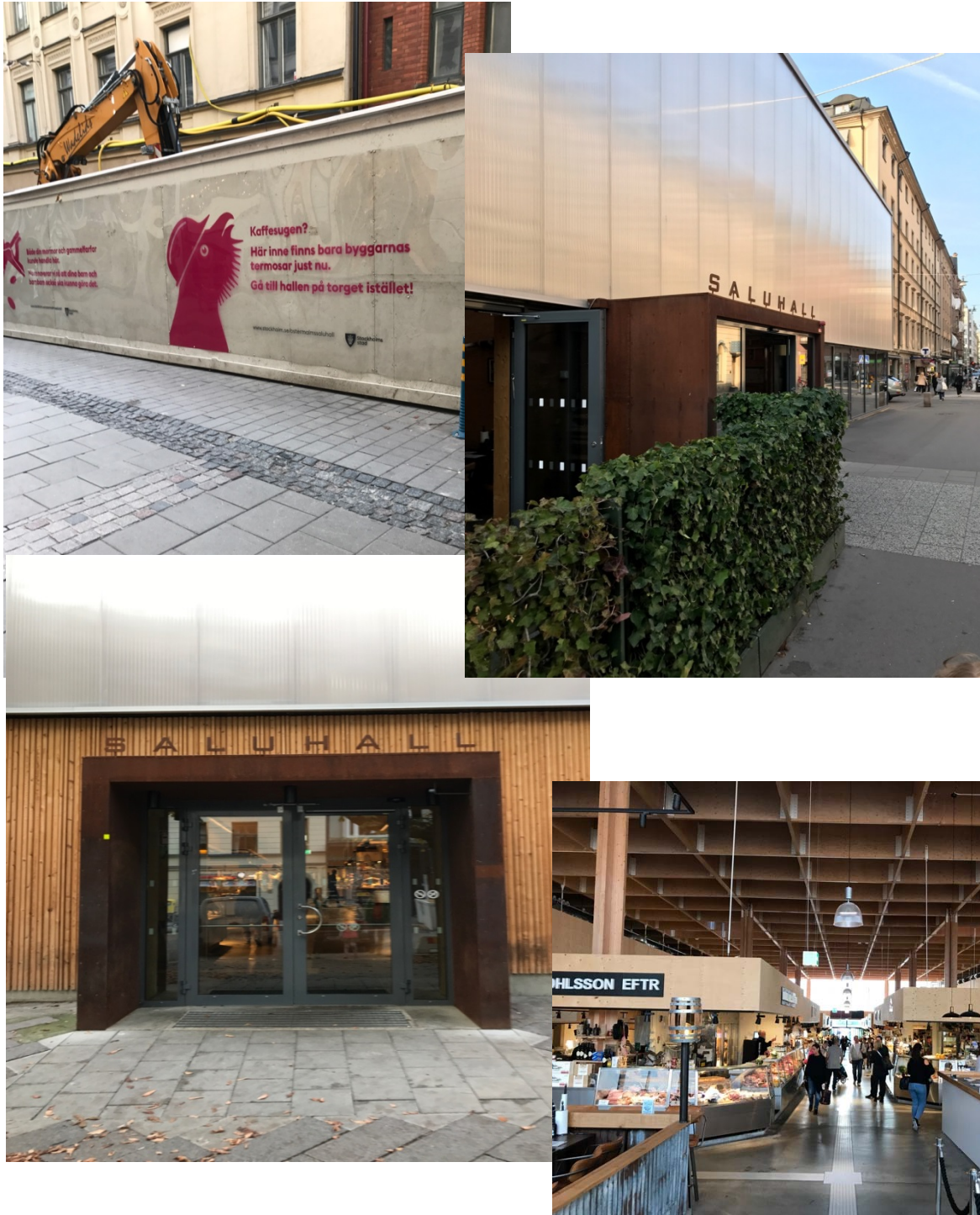
Maptionnaire @Maptionnaire · 20/09/2017
 "If you don't bring the community with you, you can't help the development of green cities." @cathyoke #communityengagement #greensurgemalmo



Success Factor #3 Community engagement

- Diverse programs and processes for active engagement and democratic participation
- Full partnership in determining urban greening for Melbourne
- Engagement principles:
 - Build understanding of the challenges
 - Gain community support for the strategy
 - Understand the community's thoughts, perceptions and concerns
 - Engage the community in a meaningful way

Photos – Denmark, Sweden



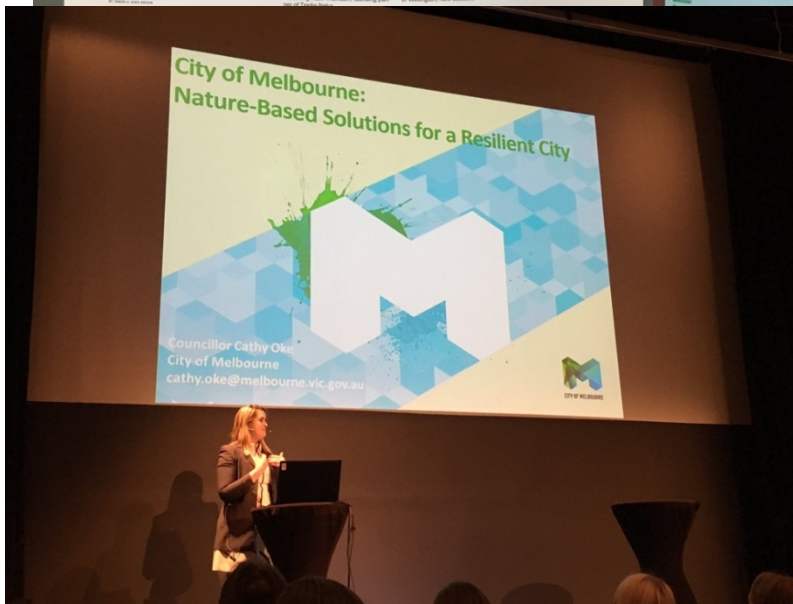
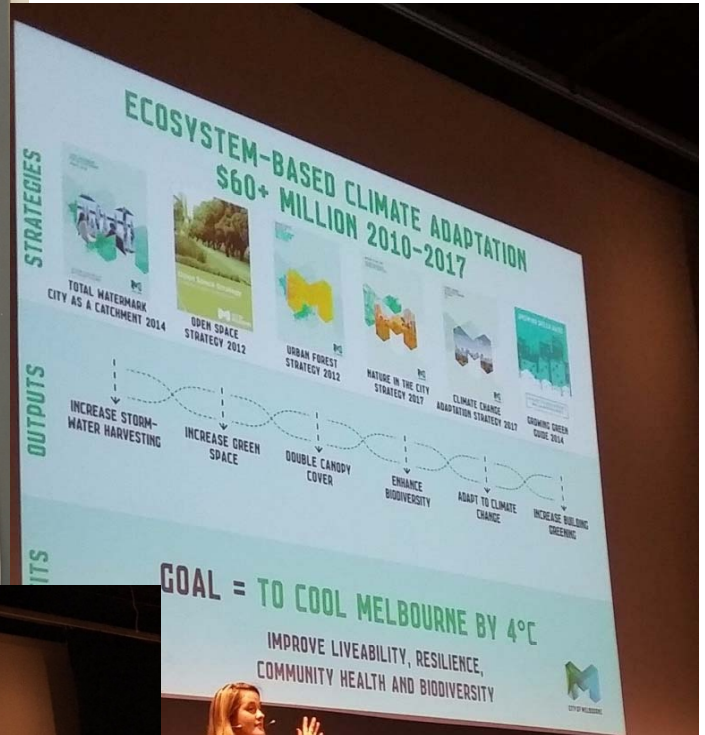
'SALUHALL' - City of Stockholm's temporary food hall in Ostermalmstorg accommodates traders while the 128 year old food hall in Ostermalm undergoes renovation.

For more information see: <http://www.ostermalmshallen.se/en/building-the-new-food-hall/>



Green Roof and Urban Greening tour in Malmo

For more information: – <http://malmo.se/Nice-to-know-about-Malmo/Technical-visits/Theme-Sustainable-City/-Ecology-Energy-and-Climate/Green-roofs-throughout-the-city.html>



Councillor Oke delivers the message on benefits of nature based solutions at the Copenhagen Lecture Series (19 September) and Green Surge Conference, Malmo (20 September)



Various – Sustainability design and infrastructure programs including Stockholm’s plastic bag reduction policy and Copenhagen’s waste-to-energy facility, Copenhill / Amager Bakke. For more information: http://www.volund.dk/Waste_to_Energy/References/ARC_Amager_Bakke_Copenhagen

23RD UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP23), CLIMATE SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS, ICLEI GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BONN, C40, CDP MEETINGS, LONDON, NOVEMBER 2017.

Overview of key achievements and outcomes

- **Melbourne’s leadership role:** Recognition and profile for City of Melbourne through appointment of Councillor Oke as Master of Ceremony to guide proceedings at the Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders (Summit). The Summit is the premier gathering of local and regional governments and offers an effective channel for key initiatives and partnerships that support implementation of the Paris Agreement, demonstrating that stronger and more effective climate action is possible when cities, regions, businesses and communities at all levels of government join forces. The Summit was hosted by Fiji but held in Bonn
- **Reaffirmation of the crucial role of cities:** Further recognition of the critical role and contribution offered by cities by including, for the first time, the Local and Regional Leaders Summit in the same venue as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC). The former Governor of California and founder of R20 - Regions of Climate Action, Arnold Schwarzenegger, encapsulated this when addressing the Summit by stating that cities, states and regions are “... laboratories of reform, engines of innovation and where the action is.”
- **Strong representation:** Demonstrated through participation by approximately 330 political leaders and more than 1000 delegates in the Summit. This included good representation from states and cities within the United States of America (USA) despite President Donald Trump’s intention to withdraw the USA from the Paris agreement. Approximately 48 delegates from the USA attended the UNCCC. This included California Governor Jerry Brown and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as part of a ‘We’re Still In’ delegation delivering ‘America’s Pledge’.
- **Commitment to take further and faster action:** Issuing of the Bonn-Fiji Commitment (Commitment) to take further and faster action to deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement at all levels of government and to solidify the dedication to keeping the global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius. The key commitments to urban action in the Bonn-Fiji Commitment are as follows:
 - Creation of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy by the merging of the European Covenant of Mayors and Compact of Mayors. This will create the largest global coalition of over 7,400 cities from six continents and 121 countries advancing city-level transitions to low emission and climate resilient economies through voluntary action.
 - The Urban Leadership Council – a group of representatives from city networks, urban think tanks, and the private sector was launched at Bonn, aiming to build high-level political commitment to sustainable urban development in rapidly urbanizing countries and provide guidance to the Coalition for Urban Transitions, an initiative overseen by C40, the WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities and the New Climate Economy.
 - R20 and Blue Orchard Finance have created the African Sub-national Climate Fund to bridge the gap between infrastructure demands and the low number of bankable projects reaching investors, by providing ready-to-invest projects and funds to support the implementation of at least 100 infrastructure projects by 2020.
 - ICLEI and GLISPA are launching Front-Line Cities and Islands, a coalition of coastal cities and islands on the front lines of climate change, working to build resilience across small islands through coastal city-to-island partnerships.
 - RegionsAdapt led by nrg4sd is pushing ahead as the first global initiative for regional governments to take concrete action, cooperate and report efforts on climate adaptation.

- The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and FMDV are launching the WAEMU Regional Partnership for Localizing Finance to advocate fiscal decentralization and innovative financing strategies and mechanisms.
- The City Climate Planner program from WRI, GBCI and ICLEI will raise the global talent base of city climate planning professionals through training and professional certifications.
- PLATFORMA is the pan-European coalition representing over 100,000 local and regional governments from Europe that engage in international action. PLATFORMA is a political voice that monitors and informs European Union development policies and that has a specific focus on partnerships for climate action.
- The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA), a regional body of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, is opening the door for more Sub-Saharan cities to join efforts to expand access to sustainable and efficient energy services.
- BMZ, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, has launched the Green People's Energy for Africa to decarbonize the African energy sector.
- BMZ is also convening leading institutions under the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) to support the construction and expansion of sustainable mobility systems in developing and newly industrialized countries.
- Climate Chance is mobilizing African cities and regions to advance implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- DST, the Association of Germany Cities, is developing Sustainable Development Goal indicators for German municipalities to ensure they can align with and track progress towards global targets.
- ICLEI is launching the Urban Transitions Alliance, a group of industrial and former industrial cities making a transition to become global leaders in sustainable urban development.
- ICLEI and the NDC Partnership are now working together to design, implement and align climate action strategies across all levels of governments.
- The SuRe Standard, developed by the Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) Foundation is being launched to strengthen sustainable and resilient infrastructure development by guiding project owners in accounting for social, environment and governance criteria, while enabling them to communicate benefits to potential investors.
- The One Planet City Challenge, an initiative of WWF and ICLEI, combines a friendly biannual competition, capacity building, technical support and public promotion, provides a way for cities to engage in long term reporting of their climate performance.
- The Climate Reporting Partnership brings together CDP and the ICLEI carbon Climate Registry, two of the leading climate reporting platforms in the world, in an effort to build a robust database of self-reported climate commitments, actions and performance tracking by public and private actors.
- Planners for Climate Action, from UN-Habitat, helps ensure urban and regional planners can play a strong role in advancing global climate and sustainability goals. To this end, this initiative will improve urban and regional planning practice and planning education.

Summary of key commitments

Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and other commitments at COP23 UN Climate Change Conference, Bonn, November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Ceremony for Summit and associated events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening session: A pivotal moment for local and regional climate leadership ○ Session 1: New global frameworks, new models for action; Integrating climate and sustainability across all sectors ○ Special address : Bertrand Piccard, Explorer, Solar Impulse ○ Session 2a: Collaborative climate action: Forging ahead through community engagement. ○ Session 3: Joining forces for transboundary climate action ○ Special address by H.E. Barbara Hendricks, German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety ○ Session 4: Raising the bar through co-ordinated action across all levels of government. ○ Closing session and Special Address: We are all uniting for climate, including closing remarks by Arnold Schwarzenegger, R20 Founding Chair. • Keynote speaker on 'Water for Resilience' as part of Water Action Day • Participation in the session 'Marrakech Partnership' which involved technical panels on human settlements, buildings and transport • Moderator for special screening of 'An Inconvenient Sequel', film by Al Gore who was a guest speaker and participant on the panel; with Vice Mayor of Helsinki, Councillor from Vancouver, Mayor of Tshwane, Councillor from Boulder Colorado. • Panellist for the session 'BreathLife Cities Breakfast Roundtable' which provided an opportunity to share interventions on activities and plans for enhancing air quality in cities. • Speaker at the 'Sustainable Innovation Forum' organised by the UN Environment and Climate Action: Retrofitting existing and building new urban environments for improved, lower carbon living – with the CEO of CDP • Meetings with Climate Reality Project representatives

ICLEI Global Executive Committee Meeting, Bonn, Monday 13 November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Oke acted for the President and Vice Present of ICLEI as Chair of meeting which considered the following ICLEI matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governance election process ○ Portfolio matters ○ Regional set nominations ○ Strategic Plan ○ World Secretariat activity ○ Thematic portfolio reports ○ Charter and by-law amendments ○ Code of Conduct ○ 2018 World Congress, Council and Committee meetings

C40 Cities and CDP meetings, London, Thursday 16 November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Mark Watts (Executive Director) and Kevin Austin (Deputy Executive Director) C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, discussion on Women4Climate initiative, and global partnerships collaboration annual plan initiative • Meeting with Kyra Appleby, Head of CDP's Cities Program. CDP runs a global disclosure system that enables companies, cities, states, regions to measure and manage their environmental impacts. A link to CDP's website which contains informative reporting, data and analysis on progress can be found here. https://www.cdp.net/en

Photos – COP23, ICLEI and related commitments



Councillor Oke, Keynote Speaker at Water Action Day addresses delegates on water for urban resilience, Friday 10 November



Key speakers, officials and delegates marking the Bonn-Fiji Commitment - Sunday 12 November



Panel members and speakers at the Sustainable Innovation Forum – in the Climate Zone- Tuesday 14 November



Arnold Schwarzenegger, R20 Founding Chair delivers Summit closing remarks with Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ashok Sridaran Lord Mayor of Bonn and Councillor Oke - Sunday 12 November



Former US Vice President Al Gore with Panel members following the screening of 'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power' - Saturday 11 November



Councillor Oke introduces former US Vice President Al Gore – Saturday 11 November



Councillor Oke and Park Won Soon, Mayor of Seoul and ICLEI President at GexCom meeting, City of Bonn Town Hall – Monday 13 November