

# CityLinks Climate Smart Cities Training Curriculum

## Introduction

The CityLinks™ model was designed by the International City / County Association (ICMA) as a way to enable municipal officials in developing and decentralizing countries to draw on the resources of their U.S. counterparts to find sustainable solutions tailored to the real needs of their cities. CityLinks leverages the experience and expertise of ICMA's membership of 9,000 local government chief administrators and their professional staffs.

This USAID funded iteration of CityLinks sought to:

1. Improve climate-related governance and systems in targeted urban areas
2. Increase resiliency of cities in Feed the Future focus countries
3. Improve water supply and sanitation access in urban communities in Global Health Initiative countries.

As a culmination of the five year program, ICMA invited 41 representatives to come together in Bangkok Thailand to share their challenges and lessons learned throughout the program, and to provide them with additional tools to continue their work after the program ends.

The CityLinks *Primer on Subnational Approaches for Low Emission, Climate Resilient Development*, launched in 2015 was the basis of the Climate Smart Cities Training, which also drew from expertise and experience in the room.

## Development Process and Training Objectives

The Climate Smart Cities Training drew from and articulated the themes in the *Primer on Subnational Approaches for Low Emission, Climate Resilient Development*. These themes are:

- Low Emissions Development Strategies
- Low Emissions and Climate Resilient Development Strategies
- Green Growth
- Implementation challenges and approaches

Workshop principles were developed and these guided the design, delivery and approach:

- Discussion based format, drawing on case studies from participants
- Note takers and transcribing allowed facilitators to track observations and findings
- Participants were encouraged to ask questions in the main group, breakout groups or in the breaks to ensure clarity and coverage of important topics
- The session allowed topics to emerge from the group for further exploration as relevant
- Reporting back will ensure documentation and sharing of the knowledge gained

In an effort to narrow the focus of the training, a survey was sent to participants that assisted with prioritizing the topics most relevant to their community. Based on the survey, as well as reports and ICMA staff experience, four key learning objectives were developed:

At the end of the session participants will:

1. Have explored approaches such as Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) and Green economic growth using real world examples
2. Have discussed implementation challenges and opportunities
3. Feel more confident in exploring opportunities in their city and have identified a plan of action
4. Have built relationships, shared plans and priorities”

As well as the formal learning objectives, participants should also be given the opportunity to hear more about different knowledge sharing platforms and professional development opportunities. Examples used in this particular training were the Durban Adaptation Charter. Others could include the Global Adaptation Network, Compact of Mayors, etc. To demonstrate innovative mechanisms to address climate resilience, CityLinks used the Business Innovators series to demonstrate practical opportunities to implement municipal scale interventions.

ICMA identified participants that had case study examples relevant to the learning objectives and prior to the session they were invited to prepare a presentation according to a specific brief. Small group discussions and structured feedback to the plenary session were used throughout to maximize sharing and collaboration.

Format	Theme	Concept	Topic	Activity
<b>Training Day 1</b>				
Introductions				Ice breaker: Participants rotate “speed dating” style to introduce themselves to each other and discuss climate related challenges in their respective cities.
Lecture	Low Carbon / Climate Resilient Development	Low Emission Development Strategies	Subnational approaches and city level LEDS.	Review and discussion of Georgia case study in CityLinks primer.
		“No Regrets” Strategies	Tying social and economic benefit to municipal climate action.	Case study presentation and discussion from eThekwini Municipality’s Ecosystem Based Adaptation Program.
Discussion		Municipal Discussion of Challenges		Cities break into pre-selected partnerships based on common climate challenges. Two city teams are presented with discussion questions on how they are addressing common challenges. Teams will present back to the group on what is working in their city and what they hope to learn more about from the larger group.
Video		Featured Innovator	Low carbon approaches in the water sector.	The CityLinks team used Agua Inc. as an example of a low carbon approach to waste water treatment. The trainees came together to view a demonstration video and then discussed the feasibility and challenges of utilizing low carbon approaches to wastewater treatment.

Format	Theme	Concept	Topic	Activity
<b>Training Day 2</b>				
Lecture	Green Growth	Green Growth Planning	Planning for alternative energy strategies that foster green growth.	Review and discussion of Vietnam case study in CityLinks primer.
		Green Economy	How municipalities can foster businesses and start-ups looking to tap into the green economy.	Case study presentation and discussion from Somerville Massachusetts on their SomerStat program.
Video		Featured Innovator	Low-cost innovation in the energy sector.	The CityLinks team used WindStream Technologies and the White Roof Project to demonstrate these two topics. The trainees came together to view a demonstration video and then discussed the feasibility and challenges of implementing and utilizing these ideas in their communities.
		Featured Innovator	Harnessing the power of white roofs and the additional benefits of community engagement	
Presentations		Financing Green Growth	Opportunities and challenges around the implementation and financing of clean energy sources	Case study and presentation from Boulder, Colorado on efforts to municipalize their electricity. Small group discussion followed.
		Municipal Capacity	Opportunities and challenges around the technical capacity of municipal staff	Case study and presentation from Fort Lauderdale on municipal training efforts around climate change. Small group discussion followed.
		Governance	Opportunities and challenges around climate governance.	Case study presentation and discussion from the Central Kazulu Natal Climate Compact. Small group discussion followed
		Knowledge Sharing	Opportunities and challenges around sharing promising practices and learning from other cities.	Case study and presentation from Legazpi City, Philippines on efforts regionalize knowledge sharing through ASEAN networks. Small group discussion followed.
		Stakeholder Engagement	Opportunities and challenges around broad, local gov. initiated stakeholder engagement.	Case study and presentation from Townsville, Australia on stakeholder engagement methodology, collective social learning.

Format	Theme	Concept	Topic	Activity
<b>Training Day 3</b>				
<p>This day was utilized for a sight visit. As this training took place in Bangkok the group took advantage of Bang Kachao, a nature preserve demonstrating the value of urban green space and ecosystem services. This type of activity allows participants to see some of the concepts outlined in action, and allows for informal discussions and networking building off of the previous day.</p>				
Format	Theme	Concept	Topic	Activity
<b>Training Day 4</b>				
Lecture	Emergency Management and Draught Planning	Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness	Planning for disasters resulting from prolonged deterioration as well as rapid onset.	City-led presentations and large group discussion on effective communication and outreach efforts to vulnerable groups.
Discussion				Cities break into partnership groups to discuss key take-aways and discuss commitment to future actions.
		Large group discussion and report out from individual city teams. Participants fill out evaluations and ensure that all contact information is correct for future correspondence.		