



SPOTLIGHT ON KEY ORGANISATIONS: CITY-LEVEL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION



This Spotlight presents an overview of some of the most important organisations supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation in Latin American cities. Between them, these organisations work to improve the development of greenhouse gas inventories, deepen networks between climate-concerned city leaders, increase energy efficiency, improve transport and waste systems, modernise disaster preparedness, and reduce the vulnerability of informal settlements.

URBAN-ORIENTATED CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORKS

► Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN)

Link: <http://uccrn.org/>

Areas of Expertise: Climate adaptation and mitigation in urban areas

Key Activities: Knowledge sharing and information exchange, awareness raising of urban climate change issues, hosting conferences and symposia, engaging students, and publications

The Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) brings together individuals and institutions dedicated to urban climate change. Its key aim is to promote better understanding and exchange between researchers, practitioners and policymakers. With a diverse steering group from developing and industrialised regions, UCCRN members include climate policy leaders from Latin American cities in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico. UCCRN is open to new members from Latin America, South Asia and Africa.

► International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Link: www.iclei.org

Areas of Expertise: Sustainable cities, resource efficiency, smart infrastructure, green urban economy and health

Key Activities: Knowledge exchange, events and training, advocacy, research and consulting

ICLEI is the world's leading association of cities and local governments dedicated to sustainable development. It brings together 12 mega-cities, 100 super-cities and urban regions, 450 large cities, as well as 450 medium-sized cities and towns in 84 countries. Latin America accounts for 49 cities across 10 countries. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource efficient, biodiverse and low-carbon, and to



build smart infrastructure and develop an inclusive, green urban economy. The organisation is headquartered in the city of Bonn, Germany, with local secretariats based in all regions of the world. Key pillars of ICLEI's approach are capacity building, training and knowledge exchange among its members. Local governments from South Asia or Africa wishing to join ICLEI can do so for a small fee.

► C40 Cities – Climate Leadership Group

Link: <http://www.c40cities.org/home>

Areas of Expertise: Climate change, emissions and mega-cities

Key Activities: Network building, research, global awards and annual summits

C40 cities is an international network of mega-cities interested in taking action on their emissions by implementing meaningful and sustainable climate-related actions locally that will help address climate change globally. To do this, the network supports city governments to cooperate in the creation of procurement policies and alliances to accelerate the uptake of climate-friendly technologies and influence the market place. Eight Latin American cities from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela are affiliated to the network, along with 50 other cities from across North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION INVENTORIES AND REDUCTION COMMITMENTS

► Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

Link: www.cdproject.net

Areas of Expertise: Climate change, water, supply chains, forests and cities

Key Activities: Research, data sharing, production of indicators and publications

The CDP is an international, not-for-profit organisation that collects climate change data from organisations in some 60 countries worldwide, providing indices for companies and cities to measure, disclose, manage and share vital environmental information. It holds the largest collection globally of primary climate change, water and forest-risk information and shares these insights with business, investors and policymakers. Headquartered in London, the CDP has offices in New York, Berlin, Brussels, Sydney, Stockholm, Milan, Sao Paulo, New Delhi, Beijing and Tokyo.

► Carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)

Link: <http://citiesclimateregistry.org/>

Areas of Expertise: City-level greenhouse gas reporting and global funding mechanisms

Key Activities: Voluntary city-level emissions reporting, national-level capacity building, partnership formation, database management and dissemination

The cCCR is an internationally recognised greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting platform for local governments, managed by ICLEI. It encourages local governments to regularly and publicly report on their GHG reduction commitments, GHG emissions inventories and climate mitigation and adaptation actions. Similarly, the cCCR enables cities to publicly register these commitments, report against performance and showcase successful actions. Sixty-eight Latin American cities participate in the registry, 45 of which are signatories of the Mexico City Pact, which establishes the strategic importance of cities to stabilise climate change, setting voluntary commitments to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change using innovative strategies.



► Greenhouse Gas Protocol

Link: <http://www.ghgprotocol.org/city-accounting>

Areas of Expertise: City-level greenhouse gas measurement, reporting and reduction

Key Activities: Researching city emission patterns, identifying major sources of emissions and mitigation opportunities, administering and verifying local-level emissions standards

The [Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions \(GPC\)](#), developed from a partnership between the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), is the most widely used international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions. WRI and WBCSD, through the GHG Protocol Initiative, work with governments, industry associations, NGOs, businesses, development banks (World Bank), networks (ICLEI, c40), UN agencies and other organisations around the world to build credible, effective, and robust GHG accounting and reporting platforms that serve as a foundation to address climate change. In May 2012, the pilot of the GPC was released and is being tested in over 30 cities around the world, including in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Mexico. The release of final version is expected in 2014.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

► Energy Sector Management Assistance Program

Link: <http://www.esmap.org/>

Areas of Expertise: Energy security, energy access, climate change, gender and social inclusion

Key Activities: Running international programmes, technical assistance, database development, knowledge sharing, reporting and publications, training, resource mapping, energy modelling tools

Established in 1983, the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) is a global, multidonor technical assistance trust fund administered by the World Bank and cosponsored by 13 official bilateral donors. Since its inception, ESMAP has supported more than 800 energy sector activities that promote poverty reduction, economic growth and low carbon development in over 100 countries. Its focus areas are energy security, energy access and climate change mitigation and adaptation options for the energy sector. [The Energy Efficient Cities Initiative](#) (EECI) works with city mayors and municipal bodies to identify state-of-the-art practical solutions to improve energy efficiency. To do so, the programme has developed a wide range of [tools and publications](#) to help municipal leaders and planners better understand their energy needs and develop innovative policy measures. Completed project case studies are available on [Bus Rapid Transport in Colombia](#) and [energy management in the provision of water services in Brazil](#), amongst others. EECI forecasts widespread urban engagement in Latin America, Africa, and Asia from 2013 onward.

LANDFILLS

► Global Methane Initiative

Link: <https://www.globalmethane.org>

Areas of Expertise: Methane mitigation

Key Activities: Research, partnerships and network building

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is a multilateral partnership that aims to reduce global methane emissions and to



advance the abatement, recovery and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source. GMI achieves this by creating an international network of partner governments, private sector members, development banks, universities and non-governmental organisations, in order to build capacity, develop strategies and markets, and remove barriers to project development for methane reduction in partner countries. The initiative has been very active in Latin America, with documented experiences in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

► Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM) – UNEP

Link: <http://www.unep.org/gpwm/>

Areas of Expertise: Integrated waste management

Key Activities: Policy dialogues, exchange of experiences and information, awareness raising, capacity building and technical assistance, waste databases and guidelines for waste management

The GPWM supports the development of work plans to facilitate the implementation of integrated waste management at national and local levels to overcome environmental, public health, social and economic problems generated by waste. This partnership has compiled waste management databases, country needs assessments and sub-sector waste management guidelines. GPWM has also put together countrywide waste management profiles for a number of Latin American countries, such as Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago. The partnership has six focal areas: waste and climate change, waste agricultural biomass, integrated solid waste management, e-waste management, marine litter and waste minimisation.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

► United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Link: <http://www.unisdr.org>

Areas of Expertise: Disaster risk reduction strategies

Key Activities: Investment in DRR, assisting the development of resilient cities, developing international integrated approaches to DRR, advocacy, research, publications and conferences

The UNISDR seeks to improve disaster risk management the world over by increasing awareness and advocating for changes in policy and practice. The agency develops partnerships with a large range of organisations at the national, state and local levels, including governments, the private sector and civil society. The agency runs the [Making Cities Resilient](#) campaign, addressing issues of local governance and urban risk via programme implementation support, city-to-city learning and cooperation, local action planning and monitoring of progress in cities. Initiated in 2010, the campaign has developed a range of tools, such as the [Local Government Self-Assessment Tool \(LGSAT\)](#), which helps help cities and local actors to set baselines, identify gaps and have comparable data across local governments, within the country and globally, to measure advances over time.



TRANSPORTATION

► Inter-American Development Bank Transport Division

Link: <http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/transportation/transportation,1236.html>

Areas of Expertise: Passenger and freight transport, road safety, freight logistics, sustainable transport, intelligent transportation systems and major projects (such as infrastructure)

Key Activities: Capacity building, project financing, planning and implementation

In 2010, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Transport Division initiated the [Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Action Plan](#) (REST-AP) to guide and mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation in IDB’s transport operations. REST aims to produce a steady flow of loans and technical cooperation grants, thereby assisting member countries in the development of national and local policies on sustainable transport. Additional activities include widening the current knowledge base on climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and developing guidelines and tools. In 2010, six IDB loans for REST projects were approved, with a combined value of US\$650 million, as well as 14 technical cooperation grants.

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

► Cities Alliance

Link: <http://citiesalliance.org/cws-action-plan>

Areas of Expertise: City-level poverty reduction and sustainable development

Key Activities: National policy framework development, local inclusive strategies implementation, increasing capacity of services to the urban poor, citizen engagement

The Cities Alliance is a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development. Alliance members include local authorities, governments, NGOs and multilateral organisations who work together through four business lines: the [Catalytic Fund](#), [Communications and Advocacy](#), [Country Programmes](#) and [Knowledge and Learning Programmes](#). [Knowledge resources](#) include fact sheets, thematic overviews, toolkits, guidelines, manuals, discussion papers and learning events. At present, 16 Latin American cities participate in the Alliance.

CONTACT [SSN](#)

To learn more about city-level adaptation and mitigation in Latin American cities, contact the author, Jarrod Russell, Researcher at the Human Development Network (*Rede de Desenvolvimento Humano* – REDEH) Rio de Janeiro, at jarrod.m.russell@gmail.com.

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To learn more about city-level adaptation and mitigation in practice in Latin America, read the [ELLA Guide](#), which has a full list of the knowledge materials available on this theme. To learn more about other ELLA development issues, browse other [ELLA Themes](#).

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