

News from Network Cities

Dakar was awarded a contract by Canada's International Development Research Centre for research on solid waste management. The project aims to improve the quality of life of marginalized people by addressing environmental problems in the neighbourhoods adjacent to the Mbeubeuss dump in Dakar.

Whistler was awarded first place for Livcom's Planning for the Future Award, and third place for overall Livability, on November 7 in La Coruna, Spain. Livcom is the world's most prestigious award for liveable communities, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program.

Trixie Mead, Director, Green City Program, City of **Adelaide**, completed the 2005 World Solar Challenge, a 3,000 km trek from Darwin to Adelaide. Trixie was in the Greenfleet class, which showcases fuel efficient technologies and low carbon fuels. The Greenfleet class features the most fuel-efficient vehicles available to consumers and demonstrates practical alternatives, from biodiesel to ethanol.

Greenfleet initiative: www.greenfleet.com.au
World Solar Challenge: www.wsc.org.au.

On December 14, **Halifax** was chosen as the Canadian candidate for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Current Events

*ICSC is pleased to welcome **Denise Pritchard** to the PLUS Team. Denise's educational background is in geography and before joining ICSC, she worked in Uganda with a local human rights group and in the UK with CARE International, one of the*

world's largest independent development agencies. Most recently, she worked with Katimavik, a Canadian national youth service program, as a field project manager.

Dr. Nola-Kate Seymoar, President and CEO of ICSC, presented at a session focused on Climate Change and Planning for Long-term Urban Sustainability of the Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change in Montreal on December 7.

The PLUS Network

The Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network supports cities and communities engaged in integrated long-term planning for sustainability. Formerly known as the +30 Network, we are pleased to announce a name change and launch of our new Network logo with this newsletter. Please note our new website address www.plusnetwork.org

New Members!

Three cities signed MOUs to join the PLUS Network: the Mayor of **Colima, Mexico**, Leoncio Alfonso Morán Sánchez, and Councillors Román León Morales and Gladis Rodriguez de la Rosa on October 28; Juan Blanco, Mayor of **Chihuahua, Mexico** on December 1; and Russel Walker, Deputy Mayor of the **Halifax Regional Municipality** (HRM) and Councillor Debbie Hum on December 14.

Currently, 18 cities are members:

- **Australia:** Adelaide
- **Brazil:** Curitiba, Porto Alegre and Salvador
- **Canada:** Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax Region, GVRD (Greater Vancouver Regional District) and Whistler
- **Costa Rica:** San José
- **Mexico:** Chihuahua, Colima and Matamoros
- **Mongolia:** Ulaanbaatar
- **Romania:** Bucharest
- **Senegal:** Dakar
- **South Africa:** eThekweni (Durban)
- **Tanzania:** Dar es Salaam

For further information on the PLUS Network please visit www.plusnetwork.org or contact:

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Director of Programs, **Jane McRae** and partner representative **Elisa Campbell**, Director of the Design Centre for Sustainability at UBC, participated in a local economic development workshop in San Jose, facilitated by EcoPlan International.

Membership in the Network is under active discussion by Council in a number of cities and regions including: Niagara Region, Ottawa-Gatineau and the National Capital Commission, Saint John and Iqaluit in Canada and Havana, Cuba. We are also in discussion with Port Alberni and Okanagan Partnership in Canada and Katowice, Poland; Bayamo, Cuba; and Manchester, U.K. as part of the Network's on-going recruitment drive.

Upcoming Events

Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities National Conference and Trade Show: **February 2-4 2006**, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. **Nola-Kate Seymoar** and **imagineCalgary** will present on February 4 at 10:30am at the Long-term Planning for Sustainability session.

ICLEI's World Congress, **Feb 27-Mar 3, 2006**, is being held in Cape Town, South Africa. Dr. Seymoar presents in a session on "Ambitious Cities".

The PLUS Network's biannual conference: **June 16-18, 2006**, Vancouver, Canada. Leading into the World Urban Forum, June 19-23, the event will focus on the long-term planning experiences of our cities and examine key issues in-depth.

Highlights from Web Dialogue on Climate Change

Prior to the 11th annual Conference of Partners (COP11) and first Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP1) United National Climate Change Conference, Nov 28-Dec 9, the PLUS Network held a web dialogue on **planning for climate change**. This dialogue session was guest facilitated by Rob Kerr of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. The dialogue looked at how global issues like climate change can be addressed at the local level and expanded to how systems thinking is needed to address these challenges.

Increasingly, local governments have become aware that reducing greenhouse gas emissions can have an impact towards global objectives. ICLEI's 650 Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) participants account for over 10% of global man-made emissions. Since the local benefits of greenhouse gas emission reductions are so significant, many municipalities now embrace climate change issues regardless of their home country's position in the global science and political debate.

Rob Kerr, Director, ICLEI Canada Office

An example of the systems thinking approach is the planning that IKEA did for introducing new light bulbs into their stores. IKEA started their planning procedure from a point where trade-offs didn't exist and then figured out what would be required to get there from today. In The Natural Step Framework, this process is called "backcasting from principles of sustainability."

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Chad Park, on behalf of Dr. Karl-Henrik Robert, founder of the Natural Step

Human needs for energy, for food, for mobility, for independence, for lights and heat, for access to vital services, for economic well-being, are not going to go away, so to address the challenges of climate change, we need to look at how to meet all our needs in new ways, and also to understand where there are structural opportunities for change that could make a significant difference. One of the best ways to do this is on the municipal level, because the majority of our systems operate at this level. Taking a systems approach to the issue, rather than a narrow problem-solving approach, is also very important.

Gwen Hallsmith, PLUS Network IPA
Executive Director, Global Community Initiatives

A [very useful] free workbook [developed by Gwen Hallsmith and the Global Community Initiatives] called "Taking Action for Sustainability", which focuses on the systems approach, can be found at www.global-community.org.
Samantha Anderson, ICSC

Resource economics was used as a tool in strategic spatial planning, which resulted in the design of a 63 115 ha open space system aimed at securing a sustainable supply of environmental goods and services. Because climate change was recognized as the most significant threat facing this natural resource base, eThekweni Municipality became the first city in South Africa to review the science of climate change in order to understand the impact it would have on this resource.

Dr. Debra Roberts, eThekweni, South Africa

North Vancouver, Canada recently achieved Milestone 4 of the Cities for Climate Protection Program. The Local Action Plan (LAP) for the Management of Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions focuses on cost-effective actions to reduce energy consumption and resulting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that provide significant environmental, economic and social benefits. By 2010, implementation will reduce energy consumption by 230 000 gigajoules (GJ) per year.

M Hunter, City of North Vancouver

Sustainability Highlight

"Good Rubbish": Re-Use of Solid Waste from Construction City of Salvador, Bahia State, Brasil

In urban areas such as Salvador, Brazil, population growth, economic development and inadequate technology contribute to increasing quantities of solid waste causing environmental, social and economic impacts both in the city and the region. In response to this problem, the City of Salvador developed and implemented a project designed to re-use the waste materials from construction and demolition projects.

Starting in 1999 and continuing today, the "Good Rubbish" project aims to determine the potential of and find uses for recycled rubbish. It received financial backing of CAIXA Economica Federal¹,

¹ CAIXA Economica Federal, a Brazilian public bank created in 1861, is active in the areas of social inclusion and poverty eradication. They invest in improving living conditions in cities, expanding banking services to low-income people and supporting initiatives on culture and sports.

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and involved a working group of both municipal and state representatives. The Federal University of Bahia and Limpurb (Urban Cleanness Company of Salvador – responsible for urban solid waste management) act as partners.

At the start, the project developed new construction material such as bricks, concrete, cement, pavement and drains using environmentally sound management practices and these materials were then used to build affordable housing. As part of the project, a socio-environmental analysis mapped the waste producing sectors of the Metropolitan Region of Salvador (RMS). The findings showed 1,500 tons of waste material per day coming out of construction and demolition sites. Not only does this type of waste have adverse social and environmental impacts, but it also has great recycling potential. Over the longer-term, the project set out to reduce the socio-environmental impacts as a result of inadequate waste disposal, preserve natural resources and improve the standard of living in the RMS. The project also includes an education component on alternative (and appropriate) disposal of construction/demolition waste.

At present, the University continues to support research into new products used for construction and Limpurb continues planning and management of rubbish and developing other alternatives, such as setting up:

1) 22 Rubbish Discharge (PDE) areas, which are equipped to receive rubbish generated by citizens, free of charge. Six

of these 22 areas are already set up and functioning.

2) a Rubbish Recycling Plant to produce and sell recycled material to poor people living in slum neighbourhoods.

3) a Manufacturing Company for blocks, bricks and floor pavement, among others materials, that will be used to construct affordable housing.

Limpurb works with other civil society organizations to implement these projects, such as: Civil Construction Union, Use and Occupation of the Ground Council, Environment Organizations and others. Currently, Limpurb's priorities are to set up the recycling plant and manufacturing company and to continue the operation of the discharge areas.

Project "Good Rubbish" has received two awards: 10 Best Practices in Brazil (awarded by CAIXA Federal) and UN Habitat Global 100 Best Practices in 2000.

Translated by Fabiana Salvi, Bachelor of Administration and Specialist in Sustainable Development.

For further information please contact:
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We would like to highlight a best practice urban sustainability initiative in each of the Network's cities. Please contact Samantha Anderson sjanderson@icsc.ca 604-666-5505 with suggestions for future highlights.

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Organizational Structure

The Partners

The PLUS Network Partners serve as the management committee for the Network, sit on the selection committee and on the International Panel of Advisors. They are:

- The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
- The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), and
- The University of British Columbia's Design Centre for Sustainability

Key Secretariat Personnel

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC), a non-government organization based in Vancouver, Canada is the secretariat of the PLUS Network. For more information on ICSC, please visit our website at www.icsc.ca.

Dr. Nola-Kate Seymoar, President and CEO of ICSC, Chair of the Management Committee and International Panel of Advisors.

Jane McRae, Director of Programs

Samantha Anderson, Senior Project Officer and Communications Manager

Denise Pritchard, Project Officer and City Liaison

International Advisors

Co-Chairs:

Mike Harcourt, Chair, Government of Canada External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, Canada

Liz Dowdeswell, President, Nuclear Waste Management Organization, Canada, former Executive Director, UN Environment Program

Network Partner Representatives:

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, ICLEI- Local

Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

Johnny Carline, Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD)

Elisa Campbell, University of British Columbia (UBC)

Affiliates:

Sustainable Cities Initiative, Industry Canada

Members:

Alan Artibise, Divisional Dean, Arizona State University, USA

Sengul Ackar, President, Foundation of Support for Women's Work, Turkey

Jeb Bruggmann, President, Globalegacy International Ltd., Canada

Ken Cameron, CEO, Homeowner Protection Office, Canada

Gwynne Dyer, Journalist, England

Gwendolyn Hallsmith, President, Global Community Initiatives, USA

Prema Gopalan, Executive Director, Syawam Sikshan Prayog, India

Sir Peter Hall, Professor of Planning, University College of London, England

Hazel Henderson, Evolutionary Economist and Author, USA

Jeff Kenworthy, Associate Professor, Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, Australia

Ashok Koshla, President, Development Alternatives, India

Jaime Lerner, President, Uniao Internacional de Arquitetos do Brasil (International Union of Architects)

Esther Mwaura Muiru, Groots International, Kenya

Karl-Henrik Robèrt, Founder, The Natural Step, Sweden

Alice Soulek, President, Back Stop Light Reflector, LLC and Alice B. Soulek, LLC, USA

Nicholas You, Coordinator, Best Practices and Local Leadership, UN Habitat, Kenya

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