

# Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and  
Comprehensive  
Post-2012 Global  
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009  
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008  
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007  
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION — A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

## Aguascalientes, Mexico

### Developing the local biofuel industry to combat climate change

**STORY IN SHORT:** This program was developed under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill of Aguascalientes. The program benefits the city by bringing in funds from the sale of carbon credits, producing cheap electricity for the municipality and meeting Mexican and international standards for mitigating global warming.

### Climate action planning

Aguascalientes is one of the few municipalities in Mexico planning in accordance with a long term vision. Projects and measures in the municipality are intended to mitigate global warming. In order to contribute to the global movement of combatting climate change, the city plans to capture and use methane gas from its landfills to generate electricity.

### Energy saving & efficiency

The consumption of electricity in Aguascalientes for street lighting has quite a high economic cost. This is another reason why the city has decided to generate electricity from its landfill at a cheaper price to use it to lower electricity costs in the municipality.

### Promotion of renewable energy

Few cities in Mexico are planning to change from non renewable to renewable energy. Aguascalientes is the first municipality in the country that will generate electricity from its landfill at the local level. In addition, it is the only city in Mexico that can sell carbon credits through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

### Advocacy for local climate action

Working with ICLEI for a number of years, Aguascalientes has been committed to implementing local action and planning to mitigate global warming. All the measures are focused on this topic. This project reflects the political commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the city is committed to encouraging other cities in Mexico to follow its example and implement similar measures.



Incinerators in the landfill of Aguascalientes  
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### Only committed people and cities can make a difference

*Francisco Gabriel Arellano, Mayor of Aguascalientes, states: "Aguascalientes is contributing with local actions to achieve global results. Climate change is affecting us and only committed people and committed cities will bring about change. In our city we are reducing the emissions from our landfill and will generate electricity. We are the only city in Mexico receiving funds from the CDM through this project but we believe more Mexican cities can follow our example."*



Construction of new cells in the landfill of Aguascalientes © City of Aguascalientes

## Involvement in international initiatives

Aguascalientes was one of the first three municipalities in Mexico to sign the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Agreement and has been very supportive with the development of the Climate Roadmap. A representative of the city is part of the Executive Board of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability in Mexico and the city is very committed to implementing projects and programs that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## The process of becoming registered as a part of CDM

*In 2005 proposals were reviewed and approved by technicians together with Ecomethane, a development group specializing in producing sustainable energy from landfill gases. In 2005 the city council authorized the Mayor to sign the agreement for the use of methane from the landfills of San Nicolas and Las Cumbres.*

*A public referendum was held in 2006 to receive international approval and during this year the state government approved the necessary environmental impact study. After this, the building of the two plants was begun and the Project Design Document (PDD) was sent to the UN for validation. In May the tests began and by July the project was registered in the Clean Development Mechanism. In 2007, the Ministry of Environment authorized the risk study and the second phase of electricity cogeneration began. In 2008 the municipality received 650,000 USD in funds from the CDM and they expect to receive a similar amount in 2009. This project has enabled the city to reduce emissions by 50,735 tonnes of eCO<sub>2</sub>. The city expects to be able to generate electricity starting in 2010.*



Aguascalientes is located in central Mexico

## City profile & contacts

Aguascalientes is the capital city of the state of Aguascalientes, and it is located in central Mexico. The city has an area of 1,173,62 Km<sup>2</sup> (20.9% of the state and 0.3% of the country). The current population is 723,043. The city is famous for its colonial architecture and the fair of San Marcos. The weather is temperate with an average temperature of 18°C.

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