

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

Calvià, Spain

Involving local stakeholders to combat climate change

STORY IN SHORT: Calvià's Climate Change Office was established in 2007 to coordinate climate change policies and implement programs. As a first step to significant emission reductions, the office has commissioned a study of Calvià's emissions. It also works with nature reserves to balance emissions. Moreover, Calvià is running programs ranging from beach clean-ups to jellyfish alert websites.

Calvià's innovative programs for emission reductions

In 2007 Calvià Council established a Climate Change Office responsible for the development of the local strategy against climate change and the coordination of all sustainability policies. As a first step of the local climate change strategy, a study of Calvià's emissions was produced. This will be published next year. Total CO₂ emissions in Calvià are almost 700 thousand tonnes a year, which represents 7% of the Balearic Islands' total emissions. Most of these emissions are coming from electricity consumption and transportation.

The comprehensive local climate change strategy will be under development until early 2010 and will take into account all related policies such as transportation, energy consumption, urban planning and nature conservation. In addition, Calvià's Climate Change Office is developing and implementing diverse relevant projects aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions. The Council has also taken the initiative to introduce modern electricity management systems, thereby decreasing the total public electricity consumption.



School children in Calvià, showing their project poster
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Teaching climate protection from the very beginning

Since its creation in 2007, the Local Agenda 21 in Schools Program has involved more than 400 children and about 30 teachers from four schools. Every school has an environmental action plan promoting energy efficiency, waste recycling and water conservation in schools. To ensure successful implementation, each of the schools has an environmental commission in charge of monitoring the action plan. Teachers and students present their results to local authorities during the annual School Forum.

Protecting residents and tourists from jellyfish

The Jellyfish Project ("Calvià sin Medusas") is an innovative project to reduce the number of people being stung by jellyfish in the summer. As proliferation of jellyfish in the Mediterranean is seen as a consequence of climate change, the project also functions as a local observatory of trends. The jellyfish proliferation has negative consequences for water quality and for the safety of tourists, thus affecting the local economy. To address this problem, the Climate Change Office has developed a web page (www.calviasinmedusas.com) where tourists can see the level of jellyfish presence at all tourist beaches of Calvià.



Poster advertising Calvià's "Clean Up the Beaches" Program © City of Calvià

Cleaning up the beaches

The "Clean Up the Beaches Program" takes place at least twice a year, once before and once after the tourist season. Normally beaches which are popular with tourists are targeted, because of the significant pollution caused by humans and boats. The program is run in cooperation with the Shark Association (a local NGO) and local businesses. An indicator of the project's success is the fact that National Geographic included it in its report "Climate Change in Spain: everybody's challenge" of February 2009 (the video can be seen on www.natgeo.es).

Protecting the natural environment

In order to protect marine species and especially posidonia seaweed, which contributes to balancing CO₂ emissions, the El Toro and Malgrats Islands were declared Marine Reserves in 2005. Finca Galatzó is a Public Rural Estate bought by Calvià in 2006, which represents 9% of the total municipal area. This huge territory with its natural value, biodiversity, historical patrimony as well as ethnographic and archaeological heritage is protected to ensure the continued balancing of emissions.

Conserving water

Residents of Calvià consume about 366 liters of water per person per day. The council already conserves water, but needs to increase its efforts in order to ensure continued availability of this special and limited natural resource. 17% of conserved water is lost along the supply line, so the Council is repairing water pipes and pumps, introducing pressure control systems in pumps and installing an online alarm in case of pressure loss. Under Calvià's ambitious Sewage Management Plan, 60% of used water is reused for gardens, agriculture and golf courses. The remaining 40% of waste water is released into the sea once it is completely purified.

Involvement in international climate initiatives

Calvià is a member of the "City for Mobility Network" which is a worldwide network of local actors engaged in promoting sustainable urban mobility. This network is comprised of local authorities, public transport companies and partners from private business, science, education and civil society from over 60 countries from all world regions. Calvià's local strategy against climate change is formed with input and recommendations from other members of the network.

Related to tourism sustainability, Calvià is also a member of the Coastal Practice Network (CoPraNet) -an Interreg IIIC project to help establish a coastal practitioner's network and bridge the gap between planners, managers and the research community throughout Europe. It has been set up to develop and exchange information on best practice in the coastal zone on the issues of sustainable tourism and coastal erosion and beach management. This year, Calvià was recognized with the Quality Coast Label in recognition of the city's work towards the sustainability development of local tourism.



Calvià is located on the western seafloor of the Balearic Island Mallorca

City profile & contacts

Calvià is located on the western seafloor of Mallorca, Spain's popular Balearic Island. Its population was almost 50.000 inhabitants in 2005. The city is very popular with tourists due to its 34 beaches and over 300 sunny days per year. Tourism is the city's principal economic activity and extensive facilities are available including hotels, golf courses and other sport facilities, restaurants, night clubs and shopping areas.

Name: Jorge Campos Asensi
Department: Oficina Calvià por el Clima
Email: jcampos@calvia.com



www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap
 E-mail: climate-roadmap@iclei.org

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