

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

Porto Alegre, Brazil

Promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency

STORY IN SHORT: Porto Alegre is both nationally and internationally recognized for its pioneering initiatives regarding environmental preservation in Brazil. The city hall seeks to establish practices and public policies for the climate protection and sustainable development of the city, by encouraging and promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. These actions aim to involve the community and public bodies to create a harmonized environment.

Local actions yield local results

The United Nations considered Porto Alegre to be the number one metropolis in regards to quality of life in Brazil in 1996, 1998 and 2002. The city is one of the greenest cities in the world, with more than 1.2 million trees along public thoroughfares alone. It boasts more than 580 squares, nine urban parks, two conservation units and a biological reserve.

Porto Alegre became the first city in Brazil to have a Municipal Secretariat for the Environment in 1976. Since then, the city has been implementing innovative projects in a number of areas. In relation to air quality, a bio-monitoring program is being developed, which analyzes the concentration of polluting particles in the air on a daily basis. Porto Alegre has also been constantly encouraging the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the municipality in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Resource Center on Renewable Energies

In September 2009, the Resource Center on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CRER-PoA) was inaugurated to promote and encourage the use of technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency locally and regionally. The goal of the center is to concentrate and diffuse information regarding new technologies and concrete experiences in the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency. CRER-PoA seeks to integrate the population, companies, research institutions and public bodies, establishing partnerships to promote these new technologies and methods.



Farroupilha's Park - City of Porto Alegre
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Professor Garcia, Municipal Secretary of Environment, Porto Alegre

"All decisions taken today will have future consequences. This needs to be very clear, because most people do not have adequate information regarding the issues involving climate change and that we are already bearing, in some way, the losses that this implies."

Energy efficient hospital

The Internal Commission of Energy Management (CIGE) of the Municipal Secretariat of Public Health of Porto Alegre conducted a survey on spending on electric energy since 2005. The survey examined all facilities belonging to the secretariat and proposed many projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

The Maternity Hospital President Vargas in Porto Alegre is an interesting example of the success achieved by CIGE. Measures such as the replacement of four elevators and one power generator and the substitution of all air conditioners has generated a savings of BRL 340,000.00.

Biodiesel from oil waste

The Municipal Secretariat of Environment carries out Project Biodiesel, which studies biodiesel production from waste oil. The goal of this project is to produce bio-fuel from waste oil from frying food.

This oil has the potential to be used in the tractors of the parks and squares of Porto Alegre City Hall and in the fleet of vehicles of the Secretariat, which currently run on conventional diesel. The target is to obtain good quality biodiesel, which is cleaner than the regular diesel available at the gas stations, and to collaborate on environmental protection and the promotion and use of renewable sources of energy.



Guaíba River shore, Porto Alegre
© Porto Alegre City Hall

Involvement in international climate initiatives

The city of Porto Alegre has made significant progress in environmental management, signing cooperation agreements with many cities to exchange successful experiences. Since joining ICLEI in 1997, Porto Alegre has become a Model Community of the Local Renewables Model Communities Network in Latin America and Caribbean. In addition, the Municipal Secretariat of Environment supports the creation of the Climate Change Forum of the Metropolitan Region of Porto Alegre, and the city is also a member of the Metropolis Network.



The city lies on the eastern bank of the Guaíba River, where five rivers converge to form the Lagoa dos Patos

City profile & contacts

Porto Alegre is the capital of Rio Grande do Sul State, an important pole of Mercosul due to its proximity to Argentina and Uruguay. The municipality has a total area of 476.3km² and is delimited by a river shore of 72km. Home to more than 1.4 million inhabitants, it is the largest city in Southern Brazil, and has shown itself to be a model to other cities in South America regarding environmental initiatives.

Name: Daniela dos Santos Senff

Department: Municipal Secretariat for the Environment

Email: dsenff@smam.prefpoa.com.br

Website: www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br/smam



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



www.local-renewables.org
E-mail: local-renewables@iclei.org

The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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