

Shimla, India

A dual Urban NEXUS strategy for integrating climate change resilience with low emissions development

Shimla's Climate Resilience Strategy successfully integrates climate adaptation with low emission development targets across five key sectors: water supply, sanitation, transport, tourism and solid waste management. The strategy assists metropolitan decision-makers in identifying key challenges, best practices, and priorities for short, medium, and long-term action.

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The project in brief

Rapid urbanization and population growth have placed the majority of Shimla's service systems under strain. The Municipal Corporation of Shimla (MCS) has been working to counteract the City's infrastructure and resource challenges with newly established cross-sectoral action plans, including a "Solar City Master Plan", "City Sanitation Plan", the "City Mobility Plan", the "Solid Waste Management Plan" and the "City Storm Water Management Plan", to improve the City's infrastructure in an integrated way. Measures are accompanied by institutional capacity building, training programs, awareness raising and educational campaigns through a newly established division, the "Public Relations Cell". Thus far, a total of 30 resilience interventions were identified for intervention with an integrated focus on infrastructural upscaling for water supply, transportation and tourism based on technical and financial feasibility.



What makes it "Urban NEXUS"?

The integrated strategy for the City of Shimla was developed as a joint effort between the municipality and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which assisted in local capacity building and the compilation of the overall strategy. Operations of waste management, specifically door-to-door waste collection, and street sweeping have been partially outsourced to the newly established "Shimla Environment, Heritage, Conservation and Beautification Society".

Shimla is intent on inciting local climate adaptation and mitigation with an integrated approach, which expands far beyond the metropolitan level. On the national level, the City is part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) Scheme, a nation-wide integrated framework to boost economic and social infrastructure through financial assistance and exchange. Internationally, as both an ICLEI and Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) member, Shimla continues to learn, share and act through its city networks for enhanced climate action. A primary focus of the Municipal Corporation Shimla (MCS) includes the integration of climate adaptation with Urban Low Emissions Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS), to identify priorities for intervention, led by ICLEI. Together, the action strategies will reduce the Shimla's vulnerability to climate change related disasters such as flashfloods and landslides, while improving the management of health risks and environmental protection.

Date	2011-ongoing
NEXUS Sectors	Water-Waste-Health-Environment
NEXUS Innovations	Institutions; Design and Technology
Scale	City-wide
Budget	n/a

Urban NEXUS Definition

The Urban NEXUS is an approach to the design of sustainable urban development solutions. The approach guides stakeholders to identify and pursue possible synergies between sectors, jurisdictions, and technical domains, so as to increase institutional performance, optimize resource management, and service quality.

It counters traditional sectoral thinking, trade-offs, and divided responsibilities that often result in poorly coordinated investments, increased costs, and underutilized infrastructures and facilities. The ultimate goal of the Urban NEXUS approach is to accelerate access to services, and to increase service quality and the quality of life within our planetary boundaries.

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Further Reading

City Sanitation Plan for Shimla: <http://www.shimlamc.gov.in/page/City-Sanitation-Plan.aspx> (20 Aug 2014)

GIZ and ICLEI, 2014, Operationalizing the Urban NEXUS: towards resource efficient and integrated cities and metropolitan regions, GIZ Study: www.iclei.org/urbannexus

Scope for improvement

Shimla's multifaceted Climate Resilience Strategy has only just begun and will depend heavily on adequate staff capacity and knowledge, to realize integrated action. As a City committed to learning through others, as well as allowing others to learn from Shimla, identifying cross-sectoral capacity building successes and challenges will provide helpful for other cities looking to implement similar measures.

Replication

Shimla's strategic approach to infrastructure improvements and overall approach, which includes a detailed assessment of short term, midterm and long-term actions, serves a replicable model for other cities around the globe. As one of 63 JNNURM cities, an ACCCRN and ICLEI member, Shimla is as a laboratory for metropolitan replication on the national and international level, through the setting of targets, performance indicators, benchmarking and integrated action.

Acknowledgements

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