

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) South Asia

Webinar on Integrated Climate Action Planning and Reporting for South Asian Cities

Organized by GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator under the EU-funded Project for
Global Covenants of Mayors–Asia

Date: 28th September 2022
Time: 10:00 to 12.00 Indian Standard Time

Summary Report

About the Session:

ICLEI South Asia, the GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator, organized a webinar on ‘**Integrated Climate Action Planning and Reporting for South Asian Cities**’ with support of the **European Union Delegation to India (EUD)** and **GCoM’s Country Coordinator - India** on 28th September 2022. The webinar was organized under the EU-funded Project for Global Covenants of Mayors–Asia.

The session aimed to facilitate capacity and knowledge building of GCoM South Asian cities and beyond on effective climate action planning, implementation and reporting. The specific objectives of the interactive training webinar included:

- Introduction of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)**, **GCoM’s Common Reporting Framework (CRF)** and **CDP-ICLEI Track**
- Discussion on **integrated climate action planning** and approaches toward **climate neutrality**
- **Build understanding on Climate Action Planning**: Overview of the tools in developing climate change plans, GHG Emissions Inventory development, Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Target Setting.
- **Good practices in climate governance** - the whole of economy approach and multi-stakeholder engagement

The session commenced with an introduction to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), GCoM’s Common Reporting Framework (CRF), and CDP-ICLEI Track. This was followed by an overview of integrated climate action planning approaches. Participants were disseminated with knowledge of various tools in developing climate action plans, GHG Emissions Inventory development, Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Target Setting. Learnings and good practices on climate action plan implementation highlighting the bankable initiatives undertaken by various leading cities in the South Asia region were also shared with the participants. Sectoral experts discussed the requirements and approaches for effective climate governance. The session agenda is enclosed in **Annexure 1**.

The webinar was attended by urban practitioners and representatives from various Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), national and state nodal agencies of India, Nepal, Bhutan & Sri Lanka, and civil societies working in the region. The complete list of participants is enclosed in **Annexure 2**.



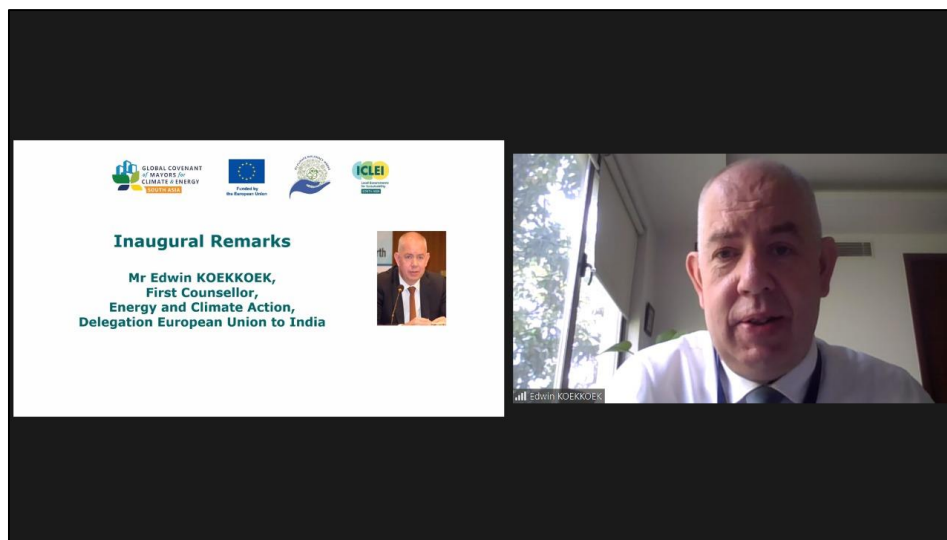
Welcome Remarks

Ms Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia commenced the session by welcoming the participants, speakers, and panellists. She provided a brief introduction of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), its role, and the support available to GCoM cities to the participants and highlighted ICLEI South Asia's role in supporting GCoM cities as GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator.

Inaugural Remarks

Mr Edwin KOEKKOEK, Counsellor, Energy and Climate Action, EU Delegation to India, shed light on the various initiatives under the EU-India Partnership on sustainable urbanisation, which provide cities with a variety of ways to strengthen and advance their efforts to combat climate change. He emphasised the vulnerability of South Asian cities to climate change and asserted the need for breaking the “departmental silos” and called for inter-departmental cooperation at the national and sub-national levels for strengthening local carbon actions and sustainable development.

Key Quote - “Climate change is a cross-sectoral issue and thus collective action needs to be taken.”



(Mr Edwin KOEKKOEK addressing the participants)

Introduction to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

Mr Ashish Verma, GCoM India Coordinator, introduced the participants to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, an international alliance of cities working to achieve a climate-resilient future. He explained GCoM's structure, membership, and joining process, and the benefits involved in the GCoM membership in terms of technical and outreach support. Additionally, he apprised the benefits of becoming a GCoM member city through the GCoM strategic tools, that deliver benefits through cross-cutting pathways, asserting the annual cumulative emissions mitigation potential of the GCoM signatories which has increased from 1.4 Giga tonnes of CO₂e to 2.3 Giga tonnes of CO₂e with the support of GCoM.



The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Asia (GCoM Asia)

Co-funded by the European Union

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity Winner

ASHISH VERMA

GCoM Asia Project (funded by European Union)
GCoM South Asia Secretariat (hosted jointly by AIILSG and ICLEI South Asia)

(Mr Ashish Verma on GCoM's support to cities)

Introduction to GCoM Common Reporting Framework (CRF) Requirements and CDP ICLEI Track

Mr Keshav Jha, Manager (Research & Advocacy), ICLEI South Asia highlighted the GCoM's Common Reporting Framework (CRF) and its elements. He informed the audience on the principles, standards, and requirements of GCoM CRF on reporting GHG emissions inventory, vulnerability and risk assessment, target setting, climate action & energy access plan, and subsequent monitoring and reporting of the action plan. He also introduced the participants to CDP-ICLEI Track, the reporting platform for GCoM, and its benefits, inviting participating cities to join- up and report their climate commitments.

Key Quote - "While doing the risk and vulnerability assessment it is recommended that vulnerable groups are identified and actions are defined to assist them as they are most affected by impacts of climate change."

Common Reporting Framework (CRF)

Launched in 2018, the CRF allows for cities (across geographies and of all sizes) to use a single harmonised approach to sharing information on climate action

Reference framework for GCoM signatories throughout all phases of engagement

Ensures robust assessment, target setting, integrated climate action planning and monitoring, as well as streamlined reporting

1) Baseline review
2) Strategic target setting & planning
3) Implementation, monitoring and reporting

Political commitment
Year 0
Improve understanding
Define ambition
SEACAP
Progress Report
Mitigation pathway
Adaptation pathway
Documents
Actions

Source: <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/our-initiatives/data/files/common-global-reporting-framework/>

(Mr Keshav Jha introducing GCoM's Common Reporting Framework to the participants)

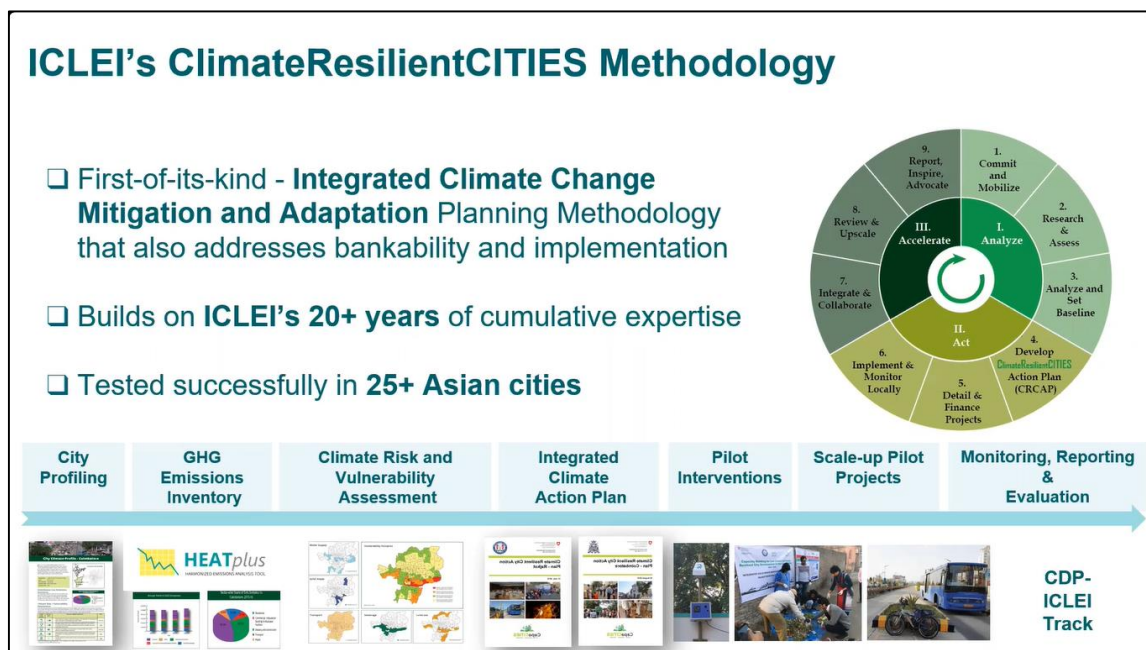


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Introduction to Climate Action Planning and Learnings from South Asian Cities

Mr Nikhil Korsepatil, Senior Manager (Energy & Climate), ICLEI South Asia apprised the participants with a conceptual understanding of the climate action planning process and opportunities to integrate climate-resilient urban development with the climate action plans (CAPs). He highlighted the climate action integration potential, inclusive planning principles, and step-by-step methods for implementing climate resilient actions, including climate governance. He explained the setting, justification, and development of the climate action plans, the "**ClimateResilientCITIES**" methodology approach, its multiple phases, and critical actions and results in each step. He also presented the success stories of Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAPs) from various Indian cities, the good practices adopted by cities as well as the pilot climate solutions that different Indian cities have scaled up.

Key Quote - "Cities should not only aim for infrastructure related 'hard' interventions but also 'soft' interventions in terms of policy solutions or capacity building."



(A glimpse from the session on Introduction to Climate Action Planning and Learnings from South Asian Cities)

Urban Outcomes Framework and its Linkages with Climate Reporting

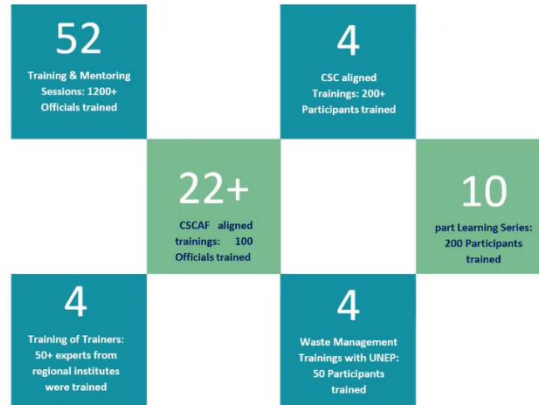
Ms Mohini Udaykumar Bhisare, Senior Associate, National Institute of Urban Affairs gave an overview of India's Urban Outcomes Framework (UOF) 2022 and its objectives. She highlighted that data across 14 sectors will be simplified through the UOF 2022, putting more emphasis on data collection and reporting. She also outlined India's Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0 process for the audience and emphasised the success of Indian cities in achieving sustainable development goals. She further asserted that cities are still lagging in climate actions and there is a need for city-specific action planning and capacity building.

Key Quote - "The CSCAF 2.0 and OUF 2022 have helped in analysing the two aspects of cities - climate action sectors where cities are lacking and the cities."



Building trainings at C-Cube

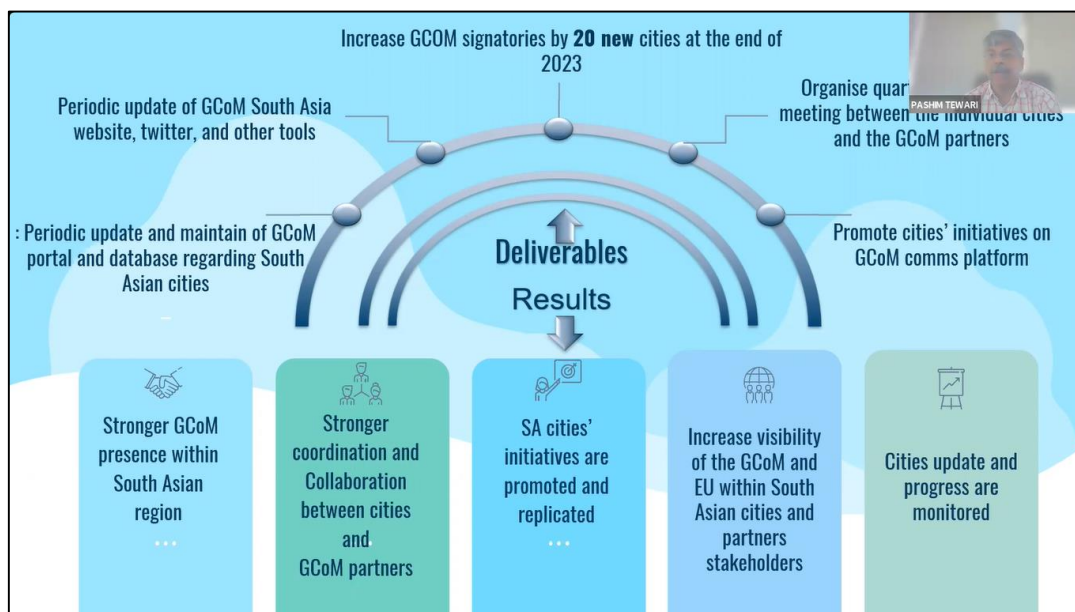
Develop capacity amongst urban practitioners and public officials to understand and apply a climate change perspective to projects and decisions aimed at reducing future risks and enhancing urban resilience..



(A glimpse from the session on Urban Outcomes Framework and its linkages with Climate reporting)

Networking and Governance Coordinator GCoM South Asia

Mr Pashim Tewari, Technical Director, All India Institute of Local Self Government briefed the participants on EU funded project for Global Covenants of Mayors–Asia. He informed the audience about the networking and mobilisation approaches adopted under the project. He asserted that higher penetration of GCoM in the region will strengthen SA and enable local climate actions as well as stronger coordination and collaboration between cities.



(Mr. Pashim Tewari briefing the participants on the EU-funded Project for Global Covenants of Mayors - Asia)

Q&A session

Dr Suratissa Dissanayake, Director/CEO, Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance provided his hand of support to the platform inviting the platform for outreach activities in Sri Lanka.

Questions to Panel –

Question – How cities can become a part of GCoM? What is the joining process and benefits involved?



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Keshav Jha – A lot of information is provided in the presentations. The slide deck will be shared with the participants after the webinar. The platform will also reach out to the cities that have shown interest in further engagement and signing up for GCoM.

Question – How cities can address data gaps as some of the data gaps needed for assessment are available in a different format than the required ones?

Nikhil Kolsepatil – The quality of solution analysis and impact in any technical assignment is dependent on the type of quality of the data. There are resources and guidance available for cities on the type of data and the format in which it is needed especially for climate action planning. For climate action plan preparation, data is typically required over a 3 to 5-year timeline and should cover the key municipal services and infrastructure such as buildings, transport, SWM, electricity consumption, etc. Typically, cities have utilised the available data formats however in some cases, the type of data available improves the over-reporting cycle. Stakeholder engagement is important in this regard. For addressing data gaps cities can use different approaches like interpolating data based on population projections, average annual or decadal growth rate etc.

Closing Remarks

Ms Soumya Chaturvedula concluded the session with a vote of thanks to the speakers and participants. She invited cities to sign-up for the GCoM platform and requested them to reach out to the GCoM South Asia Governance & Communication Coordinator and GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator regarding any administrative or technical query.



The slide contains the following elements:

- Logos for: GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY SOUTH ASIA, European Union (Funded by the European Union), ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability SOUTH ASIA), and a small video feed of Ms Soumya Chaturvedula.
- Text: **Closing Remarks**
- Text: **Ms Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia**
- Portrait of Ms Soumya Chaturvedula.

(Closing Remarks from Ms Soumya Chaturvedula)

Webinar Recording can be accessed [here](#).

Session Slide Deck can be accessed [here](#).

For more information please write to us at: gcomcoordinator@icleisouthasia.org



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Annexure 1: Session Agenda

Time	Session
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome Remarks - Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia
10:05 - 10:15	Inaugural remarks - Edwin KOEKKOEK, Counsellor, Energy and Climate Action, EU Delegation to India
10:15 - 10:30	Introduction to Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) - Ashish Verma, GCoM India Coordinator
10:30 - 10:50	Introduction to GCoM Common Reporting Framework (CRF) Requirements and CDP ICLEI Track - Keshav Jha, Manager (Research & Advocacy), ICLEI South Asia
10:50 - 11:05	Urban Outcomes Framework and its linkages with Climate reporting - Mohini Udaykumar Bhisare, Senior Associate, National Institute of Urban Affairs
11:05 - 11:25	Introduction to Climate Action Planning and Learnings from South Asian Cities - Nikhil Kolsepatil, Senior Manager (Energy & Climate), ICLEI South Asia
11:25 - 11:40	Session by Governance & Communication Coordinator - Pashim Tewari, Technical Director, AIILSG
11:40 - 11:55	Q&A Session
11:55 - 12:00	Closing Remarks - Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director, ICLEI South Asia



Annexure 2: List of Participants

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Organization	Email
1	Mayank Meena	Project Officer	GCoM	mmeena@globalcovenantofmayors.eu
2	Shouvik Datta	Senior Programme Manager	European Union	shouvik.datta@eeas.europa.eu
3	Diana Parks			dianaparks@horizonisp.net
4	Anusha Kant	Senior Manager - Climate and Urban Resilience	SEEDS	kant.anusha@gmail.com
5	Lakshmi Menon	Intern	UNH	laksh.men91@gmail.com
6	Swikriti Patnaik	Student	XIM University	swikritipatnaik@gmail.com
7	Gangireddy Vutukuri	President	Rural Reconstruction and Development Society	rrds111@gmail.com
8	Maaz Ali	Senior Project Officer	ICLEI South Asia	maaz.ali@iclei.org
9	Shilpa Shashidharan	Project Associate	GCoM	shashi.shilpas@gmail.com
10	Ritwick Boyi	Administration Officer	ICLEI South Asia	ritwick.boyi@iclei.org
11	Tushar Pradhan	Former District Disaster Management Officer	Government of Maharashtra	tspdexter@gmail.com
12	Nilesh Prajapati	Senior Project Officer	ICLEI South Asia	nilesh.prajapati1612@gmail.com
13	Bajirao Kambale	Sectional Engineer	Pune Municipal Corporation	bajikam@gmail.com
14	Keerthi Sureshbabu	Environmental and Social Officer	Chennai Smart City Limited	keerthicscl@gmail.com
15	Nikhil Mehare	Assistant Professor	Dr D. Y. Patil College of Architecture	mehare0@gmail.com



16	Shambhu Nath Datta	Chief Executive Auditor	JS Energy Check India	sdatta_65@yahoo.com
17	Satyavati Karri	Additional Commissioner (Projects)	Vijayawada Municipal Corporation	vmc.acprojects@gmail.com
18	Anirudh Vaghela	Project Associate	ICLEI South Asia	aniruddh.vaghela2121@gmail.com
19	Yougal Tak	Program Manager	Udaipur Municipal Corporation	ar_yougal@yahoo.com
20	Mukesh Pujari	Superintending Engineer	Udaipur Municipal Corporation	mukeshpujari46@gmail.com
21	Ritesh Patidar	Assistant Engineer	Udaipur Municipal Corporation	er.ritesh12@gmail.com
22	Harihara Subramanian	Manager	ICLEI South Asia	harihara.subramanian@iclei.org
23	Sumit Kumar Agarwal	Project Associate	ICLEI South Asia	sumit.agrawal@iclei.org
24	Pratibha Sharma	Engineering Department	Udaipur Municipal Corporation	pratibhagaursha@gmail.com
25	Prasannavenkatesh R	Climate Change Expert	Project management Unit -TNGCC	prasannavenkatesh.cc@gmail.com
26	Om Prakash	ECD Expert	ICLEI South Asia	om.prakash@iclei.org
27	Amit Shah	Deputy Executive Engineer (Electrical)	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	asshah@rmc.gov.in
28	Mukesh Patir	National Project Coordinator	ICLEI South Asia	mukesh.patir@iclei.org
29	Sahil Alwaria	Environment & Social Nodal Officer	Ujjain Smart City Limited	sahilalwaria123@gmail.com
30	Mangesh Dighe	Environment officer	Pune Municipal Corporation	indradhanushya@punecorporation.org
31	Vamsi Dube	Planning Secretary	Vijayawada Municipal Corporation	duba.ar.vamsi@gmail.com
32	Akshay Kashikar	City Associate	NSSCDCL, Nagpur	akskashikar18@gmail.com



33	Rifa Wadood	Director (Ocean Affairs, Environment & Climate Change)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka	rifa.wadood@mfa.gov.lk
34	Inoka	Assistant Director	Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka	thirisinoka@yahoo.com
35	Nitin Narvekar	Chief Officer	Jalna Municipal Council	comcjalna@gmail.com
36	Ashok Byanju	President/Mayor	MuAN/ Dhulikhel Municipality	askbyanju@gmail.com
37	Sasi M	Manager	ICLEI South Asia	sasi.madambi@gmail.com
38	Surabhi Pathak	Associate counsellor	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	surabhi.pathak@cii.in
39	Monalisa Sen	Programme Coordinator	ICLEI South Asia	monalisa.sen@iclei.org
40	Jyoti Yadav	SPO	CDP	Jyoti.yadav@cdp.net
41	Dr. Suratissa Dissanayake	Director/CEO	Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance	suratissa@yahoo.com
42	Prateek Mishra	Project Engineer	ICLEI South Asia	prateek.mishra@iclei.org
43	Kishan Shah	Consultant	ICLEI South Asia	kishan.shah@iclei.org
44	Vijay Saini	Manager	ICLEI South Asia	vijay.saini@iclei.org
45	Bhaskar Padigala	Manager	ICLEI South Asia	bhaskar.padigala@iclei.org
46	Neha Upadhyay	Environment Engineer	Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation	nmd_env@yahoo.com
47	Shriya Srivastava	Communications Associate	ICLEI South Asia	shriyasrivastava@iclei.org
48	Harpreet Singh	Assistant Manager	ICLEI South Asia	harpreet.singh@iclei.org
49	Ankit Makvana	Consultant	Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation	ankitmakvana.env@gmail.com



50	Nimish Jain	Project Officer	AIILSG	nimijn92@gmail.com
51	Smeet Maniar	Project Officer	ICLEI South Asia (Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation)	smeet.maniar@iclei.org
52	Avantika Arjuna	Senior Manager	ICLEI South Asia	avantika.arjuna@iclei.org
53	Rahul Singh	Manager	ICLEI South Asia	rahul.singh@iclei.org
54	Kumar Abhishek	Assistant Manager	ICLEI South Asia	kumar.abhishek@iclei.org
55	Gina Acharya	Consultant	Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation	acharya.gina@gmail.com
56	Sanjay Kulkarni	Joint City Engineer, Environment	Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	s.kulkarni@pcmcindia.gov.in
57	Jay Shah	Consultant	Vadodara Municipal Corporation	jayshah596@gmail.com
58	Daniel Robinson	SPL	ICLEI South Asia	daniel.robinson@iclei.org
59	Saira Kurup	Consultant	ICLEI South Asia	saira.kurup@iclei.org
60	Indrani Priyadarshini	Reported	AIILSG	priyadarshini.indrani@gmail.com
61	Devas Pathak	Program Officer	Climate Change Department, Govt. of Gujarat	devaspathak47@gmail.com
62	Govindraj Dilshan	Data Entry Operator	FSLGA	dilshandilu955@gmail.com
63	Hardik Gamdha	Environmental Engineer	Vadodara Municipal Corporation	hardikgamdha@yahoo.com
64	Dipak Bhowmick	Project Officer	ICLEI South Asia	dipak.bhowmick@iclei.org
65	Bhupandra Salodia	Project Manager	Udaipur Municipal Corporation	bhupandra.s2@gmail.com
66	Venkatesh Sawant	Municipal Engineer Grade II	Corporation of the City of Panaji	ccptechnical2020@gmail.com



67	Joyeeta Dey	Urban Planner	Siliguri Municipal Corporation	smcwb@hotmail.com
68	Yangchen Lhamu	Research officer	Center for Bhutan and GNH studies	yanglham06@gmail.com
69	Rithika Fernandes	Deputy Manager	ICLEI South Asia	rithika.fernandes@iclei.org
70	Kumar Shantanu Bharadwaj	Programme Officer	Climate Change Department, Govt. of Gujarat	shantanup.bharadwaj@gmail.com
71	Vasavi Yarram	Project Officer	ICLEI South Asia	vasavi.yarram@iclei.org

