

Practical Information on the Global Initiative of Resource Efficient Cities

About the Global Initiative

The Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities was launched in 2012. The first phase focused on research and global advocacy. Through this Initiative, UN Environment and its partners are working to equip city managers and practitioners with the tools and knowhow to build and transition to low-carbon, resilient, and resource efficient cities using integrated systems approaches such as urban metabolism.

Accomplishments to date

Research and global advocacy:

- Meeting the needs: the Initiative conducted and completed a comprehensive research and validation exercise that became the basis of the work of the Global Initiative: a global

survey of over 100 cities on resource efficiency, research on methodologies related to systems approaches in cities, and mapping of partner agencies already working on integrated approaches to city work.

- The New Urban Agenda: the Secretariat provided support and convened partners ensuring that key advocacies of the Initiative - (a) linking resilience and resource efficiency and (b) a systems and integrated approach to urban environmental management - are included in the New Urban Agenda.

City piloting:

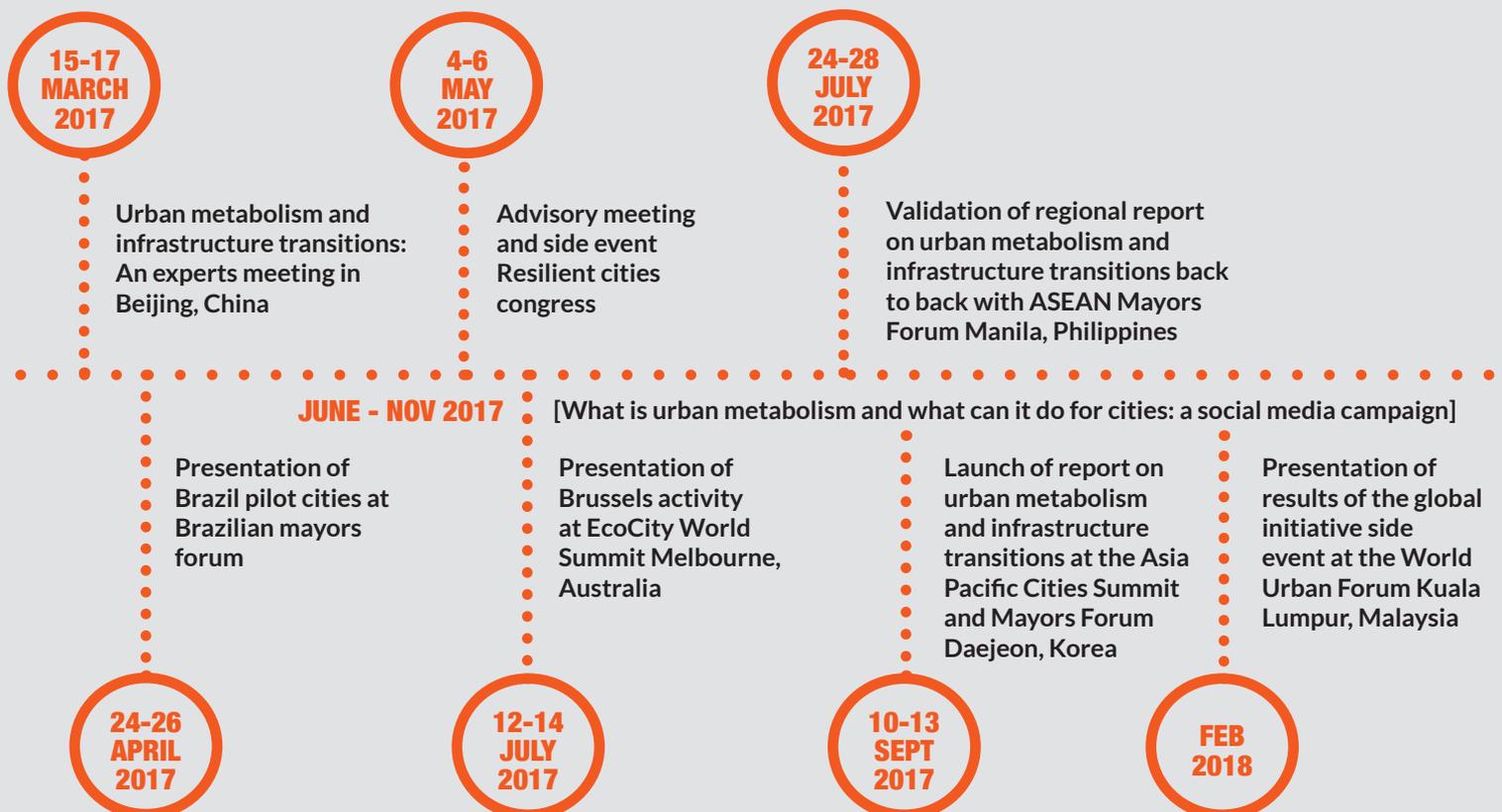
The Initiative is currently piloting in six cities around the world: Brasilia, Brazil | Brussels Region, Belgium | Dongguan, China | Johannesburg, South Africa |

Recife, Brazil | Sorsogon City, Philippines. With the exception of Brussels, UN Environment has supported these cities in raising complementary funding to improve resource efficiency at city level. For these pilot cities, UN Environment engages in (a) Capacity building of pilot cities to develop policies based on quantitative and qualitative knowledge of the flow of key resources (water, waste, energy, materials) taking into consideration impact on food systems and land (b) Identifying and recommending methods that would support cities interested in integrated approaches based on their level of development and existing capacity (c) Contributing to vertical integration of community and city level data with global environmental frameworks (e.g. SDGs).

2017- 2018 work plan

For this implementation period, the Initiative will focus on pilot city implementation and communication/ advocacy. A detailed work plan can be found on our website. Key outputs for the year include

- Final report on initial piloting
- Year-long targeted communications campaign: (a) Special issue journal for academics (b) report for city practitioners (c) Social media campaign and popular media (2 short films) for students/ general public
- Engagement with partners through a series of events in various international fora



GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways to engage with the Global Initiative. The best way is to look at the work plan and an event or activity that interests you/your organization. Through this Initiative, you will gain access to the knowledge created and to the global network of partners in this field.

Below is a list of roles and responsibilities of partners, pilot cities, and observer organizations. If you are interested in the Initiative and would like to be involved, please contact the Secretariat: unenvironmentcities@gmail.com

Role(s)	Organisation(s)	Description	Responsibilities and means of engagement
Advisory Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-Habitat ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability UN Environment 	Advisory Board members are actively engaged in steering the direction of the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance on overall direction of the Initiative Guide the fund-raising strategy and actively fund-raise with the Secretariat for the Initiative Communicate key advocacies of the Initiative in their own work
Secretariat	UN Environment, Economy Division	The Secretariat will oversee and coordinate the day to day activities of the Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of work plan and strategic documents for Advisory Board review Implementing projects Liaising with partners Reporting to partners the results of the initiative Co-financing and joint fund-raising with partners
Partners	China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center (CAEC) EcoCity Builders ENERGIES 2050 French Ministry of the Environment International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment International Institute for Environment and Development League of Cities of the Philippines Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) SUC Institute Sustainable Cities Programme Brazil University of Sheffield World Council on City Data Sustainability Institute Cities Alliance Metabolism of Cities	Partners are organisations that are not part of the Advisory Board but have implemented, are implementing, and/or plan to implement activities with the Secretariat Members of the Advisory Board are also Initiative partners Some pilot cities are partners as distinguished below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in partners meetings both virtual and in-person (there are two partners' meetings/year) Share information on the Global Initiative within their respective organisations Engage with the Secretariat in achieving its three objectives (a) joint knowledge creation and curation (b) joint piloting (c) working in partnership to influence global processes Organise activities jointly with the Secretariat (training events, side events in major conferences) Provide co-financing in cash/kind
Pilot Cities (Direct implementation and through partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brasilia, Brazil Brussels, Belgium Dongguan, China Johannesburg, South Africa Recife, Brazil Sorsogon, Philippines 	<p>Cities piloted directly by the Secretariat are also partners of the Initiative</p> <p>Note: We do not expect to engage new pilot cities this year. New piloting is targeted for 2018. If you're interested, let's talk and make a plan!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat provides capacity building of key local government actors to develop policies based on quantitative and qualitative knowledge of key resources. Recommend methods that would support cities interested in integrated approaches
	Indirect pilot cities (cities piloted by partners)	Cities piloting aligned concepts but not directly implement by UN Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences of these cities are captured and documented by the Secretariat through its partners.
Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Liveable Cities Singapore Ellen MacArthur Foundation World Business Council for Sustainable Development FIDIC 	Interested parties with related programmes scoping possibilities of partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invited by the Secretariat to events and partners' meetings.