

## **GREENING THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2006:**

### **INTRODUCTION**

---

Over 9000 international meetings are held globally each year and about 20% of these are on a significant scale which involves over 1000 participants. Therefore, as you can imagine, when large numbers of people gather for an event, the host city, country or area experiences a great increase in demand for natural resources (e.g. water and energy) and additional stress is placed on the local communities (e.g. waste and pollution). Some of this impact is positive, usually translated into economic benefits; however these benefits are often accompanied by negative environmental and social impacts. This is where event greening comes in because it has the potential to reduce the negative impacts that the event has on the host region. In other words, event greening contributes to the maintenance of a healthy environment capable of meeting resource demands in the future.

#### **What is the vision of a “green event”?**

The vision of a green event is to reduce the consumption of natural resources, avoid damage to the local and global environment, protect biodiversity and human health, reduce waste to a minimum, take ecological, social and economic aspects into account for future-oriented city development and offer sustainable development options to the local people, their environment and economy. This last point is an essential part of the greening legacy and it highlights that there should be no negative impacts on local inhabitants. It is also important to realise that the greening of an event is an on-going and continuous process and not just an isolated once-off activity. It is crucial that event greening involves incorporating sustainable development principles into all levels of event organization and implementation.

#### **What are the benefits of a “green event”?**

Event hosting can be used as a medium for a host city to initiate sustainable development programmes which will have long-term local economic, social and environmental benefits. Greening an event also has direct financial cost savings for the various role players. This is mostly achieved by reducing energy and water costs (through reduction in use and efficient technology), encouraging waste separation and recycling (which contributes to the development of local recyclers, and stimulates local economies) and through purchasing local products.

These gatherings also provide unique opportunities to raise awareness around sustainable development issues and thus encourage people to change their perceptions and behaviour and make responsible decisions that can reduce the negative impact on the environment and society.

#### **What are the basic principles that need to be incorporated into the greening process?**

1. Environmental best practice
2. Social and economic development
3. Education and awareness
4. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
5. Leaving a positive legacy

## GREENING THE ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2006

---

The ICLEI World Congress 2006 is going to be a green event. This entails hosting the event in a responsible way by making environmentally, socially and economically responsible decisions when organising, managing or participating. Those decisions then need to be channeled into long term actions for sustainability.

### What is the objective of greening ICLEI World Congress 2006?

The objective of greening the ICLEI World Congress 2006 is to ensure that the organisation and management of the Congress is planned and undertaken in such a way that it demonstrates best environmental practices, and makes a significant contribution to enabling sustainable development and local community benefits in Cape Town. It is hoped that through the greening process, negative environmental and social impacts will be minimised, that there will be an increased awareness regarding the importance of sustainable development in Cape Town and that a positive legacy will be left behind. The project will seek specifically to promote best practices that are also financially advantageous to local industries.

### How do we green an event?

The following issues have been identified as priority areas for intervention:

<b>Interventions</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Waste Avoidance and Minimisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Reduce, reuse and recycle'</li> <li>• Separation bins to be provided in the congress venue – to provide for separation of waste at source</li> <li>• Congress paper to be printed on post-consumer recycled paper or FSC certified paper</li> <li>• Involvement of recyclers in all events</li> <li>• Use of temporary buildings, kiosks, banners etc that may be reused for other purposes</li> </ul>
<b>Water Conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water conservation at venue and hotels</li> <li>• Low flow taps at the congress venues and hotels</li> <li>• Dual flush toilets at congress venues and hotels</li> <li>• Water restriction campaign</li> </ul>
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate energy saving measures and low energy usage technology for the congress</li> <li>• Retrofit energy efficient technologies</li> <li>• No use of electrical signage for the congress</li> <li>• Cost-benefit information for energy savings</li> <li>• Air conditioning at the venue – sensory or controlled.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport standards for contracting official vehicles.</li> <li>• Ensure that best environmental practices are followed for transport management</li> <li>• Encourage use of public transport and walking.</li> <li>• Preference of low emission vehicles</li> <li>• High density accommodation – to avoid the need for individual travel</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement sustainable procurement methods</li> <li>• Promote the use of local products that are environmentally friendly</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaner Technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the retrofitting and utilization of cleaner production technologies and consumption for the Hospitality and Tourism sector based on cost savings and other incentives.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade certain infrastructure used to support the conference in order to reduce energy and water consumption patterns</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the ICLEI Climate Legacy Initiative</li> <li>• The ICLEI Executive Committee decided in May 2005 that whenever CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cannot be avoided for all ICLEI events and business trips, respective compensation payments have to be made.</li> <li>• A carbon-offset payment of 50 Euro is included in the congress fee, to compensate for the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused as a result of congress related air travel. This offset payment is calculated according to participants' average distance travelled by region.</li> <li>• The funding generated through the ICLEI Climate Legacy initiative will serve to finance a Cleaner Development Mechanism (CO<sub>2</sub> reduction) project in Cape Town known as Kuyasa.</li> </ul>
<b>Training and Awareness Raising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programme for staff and participants on event greening</li> <li>• Increased public awareness and application of “Greening Principles”</li> <li>• Consolidation of lessons learned and dissemination to other cities hosting global and regional events</li> <li>• Provide a comprehensive but concise document on cleaner production considerations and cutting-edge interventions and innovation with respect to energy, water and waste consumption for training</li> </ul>

### **Leaving a positive legacy and lessons learned**

Long-term sustainability and leaving a positive legacy are important features of greening an event. As mentioned, greening an event is a process, and as such requires continuous assessment, both during and after the event. This monitoring and evaluation is to appraise the effectiveness of the decisions made and the activities performed and provides information on achievements and successes which can be disseminated and incorporated into future activities and events. It also urges people to be accountable for their actions but most importantly encourages continuous learning.

Part of leaving a positive legacy entails the demonstration of best practice which contributes to heightened public awareness of the meaning and significance of sustainable development. To demonstrate South Africa's practical commitment to sustainable development and to leaving a positive legacy, the City of Cape Town intends to continue to support the initiatives established during the ICLEI World Congress 2006. For the greening of an event to leave a successful legacy, for biodiversity to be maintained, for poverty to be alleviated, it is important that greening be seen as a long-term process, entailing the cooperation of all sectors and industries, with a common vision of social, environmental and economic sustainability.

***Cape Town  
September 2005***