Climate Smart Low Carbon Cities
气候智慧型低碳城市

OVERVIEW

Effective global climate action depends on China, now the world's largest carbon emitter. Over the past two decades, China's unprecedented economic boom has brought with it a 250-percent increase in primary energy demand, causing a significant increase of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For China to deliver on its international commitments, its cities – which generate 70 percent of the country's emissions – will have to achieve aggressive low-carbon development targets. Local leaders must guide China's unprecedented urbanization into climate smart, low-carbon development pathways.

In 2016, the Climate Smart, Low Carbon Cities in China project was launched to give Chinese urban practitioners the skills and tools to effectively implement low carbon policies. Implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), with the support of the China National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC), the Climate Smart, Low Carbon Cities project encourages Chinese leaders in four urban areas to identify, scale and share best practices.

THE RESULTS

- Supported four leading Chinese cities to advance low carbon initiatives, reduce GHG emissions and offer plans to peak them in advance of China's national commitment.
- Strengthened local leaders' ability to implement practical, proven low carbon development activities, including GHG inventory management systems and early peaking roadmaps.
- Advanced practical, China-specific tools that enable public and private sector actors to take action to reduce GHG emissions, such as WRI's Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool for Chinese cities and LBNL's Green Resources and Energy Analysis Tool (GREAT).
- Accelerated U.S.-China collaboration on low-carbon urban development through work with strategic partner NCSC and city exchange.

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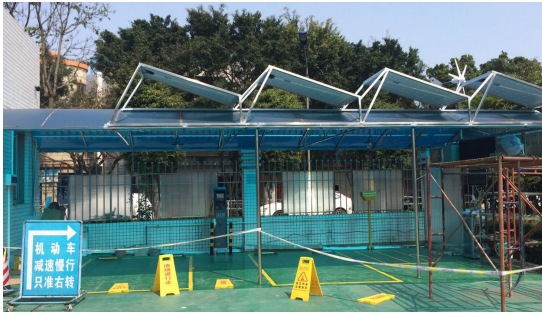

THE CITIES

The Climate Smart Low Carbon Cities (CSLCC) project worked with four leading Chinese cities to advance specific low carbon initiatives. Each city made a study visit to the U.S. to see firsthand examples of successful low-carbon urban initiatives and provide direct exposure to relevant international best practices.

Hunan Province – Chang-Zhu-Tan Cluster

The Chang-Zhu-Tan Cluster consists of Changsha, Zhuzhou, and Xiangtan cities with a total population of 14 million located in Hunan Province. CSLCC's technical assistance resulted in several provincial and city-level government departments collaborating on GHG accounting and forecasting, establishing a foundation for low carbon development planning. With support from CSLCC team, Changsha has developed a Climate Action Plan, outlining a clear early peaking pathway for Changsha to peak emission by year 2025. The plan prioritizes sectors with the highest potential for reductions and identifies projects with the best carbon & cost efficiency, with financing suggestions like green bonds and public-private partnerships.

Qingdao

This coastal city of nine million people located in eastern Shandong province joined China's Alliance of Pioneer Peaking Cities (APPC) at the Second U.S.-China Climate Smart Low Carbon Cities Summit in 2016. To meet its APPC targets, the city developed a GHG inventory management system with assistance from the CSLCC team, laying a foundation for the city to develop its own early peaking plan. Similar to the Chang-Zhu-Tan Cluster in Hunan, activities in Qingdao delivered comprehensive strategy to account for and regularly inventory GHG emissions.

Zhongshan

Located in the province of Guangdong, Zhongshan is a major urban settlement within the Pearl River Delta, the world's largest urban area and the center of China's economic growth. Through ongoing coaching and technical assistance, CSLCC improved Zhongshan's climate change management capacity at the community level. By taking actions like establishing solar-powered demonstration centers in middle schools, community leaders in Zhongshan simultaneously drove down emissions while inspiring China's future urban leaders to take action to decarbonize their cities. The project also contributed to a number of community-driven initiatives including facilitating the industrial business to adopt clean energy.

Kunming – Chenggong

The Chenggong district in Kunming – a city of 6.6 million residents – is the seat of the municipal government in the capital city of the province of Yunnan. CSLCC provided technical assistance and organizational support to forge a new development plan for a local district neighborhood with a low-carbon focus. The Wanxichong Upgrading Strategy outlines 10 concrete community actions to drive down emissions, including a net-zero retrofit of a community center with a biogas digester and solar roofs, in addition to many other low-carbon measures. The strategy was made possible through multi-stakeholder consultation with community managers and residents, and is a promising approach other cities can adopt.

PARTNERS

NCSC 国家应对气候变化战略研究和国际合作中心
National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation(NCSC)

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ABOUT ISC

Founded in 1991, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) has worked in 30 countries around the world and implemented over 103 sustainable projects. We have worked in China since 2007, equipped with a depth of experience in multilateral cooperation on issues of sustainability and capacity development of key stakeholders in urban development. We work with partners across sectors to advance urban sustainability and sustainable manufacturing.

ABOUT ICMA

ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. The organization's mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional management to build better communities. ICMA identifies leading practices to address the needs of local governments and professionals serving communities globally.