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AMBITIOUS CITY PROMISES

CiBiX Ideator Insights Report: Hanoi

City-Business Collaboration for Low Emission Waste Management
8 November 2019 - Hanoi, Vietnam

Through Ambitious City Promises (ACP), Hanoi, Vietnam has committed to developing a low emission development strategy (LEDS) based on robust stakeholder engagement from citizens and the private sector. In its LEDS, Hanoi emphasized the importance of tackling its growing plastic waste challenge and has prioritized this point for city-wide sustainability action.

In November 2019, Hanoi hosted a multi-stakeholder engagement consultation on plastic use and waste reduction. This meeting provided the space for a CiBiX (City-Business Collaboration Accelerator) engagement that connected the city with leading businesses on this topic. Participants from across sectors collectively engaged during the event to identify needs and practical solutions to Hanoi's waste challenges. Plastic waste is one of the priority sectors selected for their low emission development strategy as part of the Ambitious City Promises (ACP) project.

Key learnings and next steps from the CiBiX workshop are presented below. For further information please contact: ICLEI – Local Governments for sustainability at city-business@iclei.org.

REALITY CHECK

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, Hanoi produces 4,000 - 5,000 tons of waste per day, 8% of which is plastic waste. Plastic pollution otherwise known as white pollution refers to the build-up of plastic objects and particulates the environment. This has adverse effects on human health and leads to environmental degradation through the contamination of ecosystems, the blockage of river flows and the reduction of biodiversity.

To tackle this growing sustainability challenge, Hanoi is determined to take action to curb plastic consumption and improve waste management practices. However, Hanoi faces several urgent considerations. Firstly, none of Hanoi's waste is formally separated at source, of which plastic constitutes 17%. Separating and recycling plastic waste after collection is particularly challenging in Hanoi due to high humidity levels which quickly has contamination impacts mixed collected waste. As a result, the city finds it difficult to find appropriate waste treatment technologies.

Capacity constraints within service delivery are also inhibiting effective plastic waste management. At present, the Hanoi Urban Environment Company – URENCO, a state-owned enterprise under the People's

Committee of Hanoi City, is the only company managing waste collection and treatment. However as the population grows and waste production continues to rise, Hanoi will need to rapidly expand its waste management infrastructure, increase investment as well as identify new technologies and solutions.

Practices changing the status quo

Citizen-led waste-sorting

Current plastic waste recycling is being carried out by entrepreneurial citizens who separate and collect plastic resources in return for financial compensation. However these activities are still informal and unregulated. As a result unsafe practices in plastic waste picking have emerged, leading to negative public health implications.

Pilot projects on plastic

To develop new solutions, Hanoi city government has partnered with UNRENCO to launch the "Waste Sort at Source – Smart waste collection". The initiative engages citizens to support the sorting and recycling re-usable materials at source. The pilot version of this project is taking place in the Hoan Kiem district with the aim to expand this approach throughout Hanoi by 2025.

BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Unify and strengthen waste management policies

Within Vietnam and in Hanoi, there are more than 20 legal documents related to solid waste management. This indicates that there is political commitment as well as the basic building blocks needed for policy implementation. However only a few include references specifically related to plastic waste management. These include National Environmental Protection Strategy to 2020, Strategy for Development of Solid Waste in Vietnamese Urban and Industrial Areas up to 2020, Decree 38/2015 on waste and scrap management and the National Investment Program on Solid Waste Treatment for the period of 2011-2020. Moving forward it would help to align and unify the diverse regulatory decrees and strategic documents in order to set standardized targets, action plans and deadlines. Strong policy directives that are clear and easy understand will also help companies and citizens comply with regulation and make the necessary investments to reduce plastic use and improve recycling and re-use of existing plastic materials.

Connect plastic management to climate and health

The city is increasingly concerned about the impact plastic production, use and pollution has on climate change and the health of its citizens. Throughout its life cycle, plastic contributes to climate emissions: At present fossil-fuels (Coal, oil and gas) power the creation of plastics; refining and manufacturing cranks up emissions and unsustainable waste management including landfill also has a CO₂ impact.

Additionally, when plastics enter the environment, they don't stop polluting. Plastic pollution is still rising in Hanoi due to the compounding effects of limited waste management services and increased plastic consumption. As a result, the spaces citizens engage with on a daily basis are being contaminated. The long-term impact of this could lead to poor water quality and health challenges due to chemicals found in plastic materials. More work could also be done to connect data resources and departments at the city level working on waste, environment and health and establish inter-departmental collaboration on this challenge. Bringing these issues to the forefront of waste management dialogue could also help to mobilize business and citizen participation and encourage more responsible plastic use.

Test solutions together with businesses and citizens

Hanoi has been testing a series of alternative waste management solutions together with businesses and citizens. For example, a project that focused milk carton collection and recycling was co-developed with TetraPak and local schools. The city also collaborates with local citizen-led initiatives such as Green Hub, GreenID, Live&Learn to find good practices for reducing plastic waste. The city aims to continue to build and improve synergetic multi-stakeholder approaches to waste management and prioritize this approach in future policymaking. The city also envisions improving resource mobilization, both financial and technical, through strengthening partnerships with private actors.

Strengthen public communication on waste topics

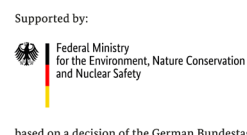
The city of Hanoi can do more to promote the options citizens and businesses have when it comes to sustainable waste management. Many stakeholders are not involved simply due to a lack of clear information and training on what they can do to support the city and other stakeholders' initiatives on this topic. The city has already partnered with media agencies to showcase the successes of new waste solutions as well as promote public awareness on zero-waste solutions. The next step for the city would be to scale up the promotion success stories and positively highlight businesses and organizations that are following correct procedures or engaging in innovative waste management projects with local green stakeholders. The city could also support knowledge-exchange networks empowering local actors to play leading roles in awareness campaigns and multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange.

MOVING LOW EMISSION WASTE MANAGEMENT FORWARD

Hanoi plans to continue to increase ambition and implementation regarding waste management throughout 2020. Continued private sector support and contributions to Hanoi's growing waste challenges will be vital to ensure that low emission waste solutions are ambitious but also achievable. Hence, Hanoi would like to intensify early-engagement and networking opportunities amongst local actors on this topic. Beyond participation in future public consultations – companies are invited to share their own thoughts, commitments and actions on the ACP citizen engagement platform. The commitments of the city government, the private sector and citizens on low emission development will be integrated into Hanoi's City Promise with the support of the ACP project. Hanoi is also interested in establishing a collaborative governance approach with all waste stakeholders – clearly dividing responsibilities and establishing a connected value chain for all resources.

[For more information on Ambitious City Promises](#)





About the CiBiX Ideator for Ambitious City Promises

CiBiX (City Business Accelerator), ICLEI's service model for City-Business Collaboration, will connect ACP cities to state-of-the-art technology and to overarching smart city concepts to support the development of City's Low Emissions Development Plan (or "City Promise"). The CiBiX Ideator workshop will assist the cities in identifying innovative solutions to their pressing problems and urban infrastructure needs to strengthen their long-term climate goals. Additionally, this exchange will enhance the participation of business sectors, one of the major target groups of the Ambitious City promises project, as part of stakeholder interaction in the development and implementation of the City Promise.

About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability. Website: www.iclei.org