

The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide

AN INTRODUCTION TO
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



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and
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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FOREWORD

By Maurice Strong, Chairman, Earth Council (United Nations)

In 1992, the leaders of 179 countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Earth Summit to finalize a global action plan for sustainable development, called Agenda 21. In this document, they recognized that because “so many of the problems and solutions being addressed by *Agenda 21* have their roots in local activities, the participation and cooperation of local authorities will be a determining factor in fulfilling its objectives.” *Agenda 21* further calls upon local authorities in every country “to undertake a consultative process with their populations and achieve a consensus on ‘Local Agenda 21’ for their communities.”

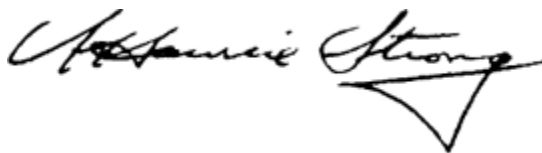
When this **mandate** was set out in 1992, there was little information available on how to proceed. It therefore gives me particular satisfaction to report that, since 1992, more than 1,300 local authorities from 31 countries have responded to the Agenda 21 mandate by developing their own Local Agenda 21 action plans for sustainable development.

The task of mobilizing and technically supporting Local Agenda 21 planning in these communities has been led by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and national associations of local government. Now, with the further support of the International Development Research Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme, ICLEI is able to present the first worldwide documentation of Local Agenda 21 planning approaches, methods, and tools in this *Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide*.

The planning framework presented in the Guide has been derived from real-life Local Agenda 21 planning efforts around the world. The framework is being tested and reviewed by municipal professionals from 14 countries, North and South, East and West. The Guide should therefore provide a very useful introduction and technical resource on Local Agenda 21 planning to municipal professionals and NGOs facing a variety of development conditions.

The transition to sustainable development is not a soft option, but an imperative for our survival and well-being. It is going to require a great deal of courage and commitment from all sectors, including municipalities, to ensure its success.

In my parting words at the conclusion of the Earth Summit, I said that we all “must move down from the Summit and into the trenches where the real world actions and decisions are taken that will, in the final analysis, determine whether the vision of Rio will be fulfilled and the agreements reached there implemented.” Of the many programs that have resulted from the Earth Summit, none is more promising or important than this one, which has hundreds of local authorities around the world now setting out and implementing their Local Agenda 21s.



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FOREWORD

By Elizabeth Dowdeswell Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP)

The *Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide*, prepared by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), introduces just such an approach—a planning framework for sustainable development at the local level. In simplest terms, the Guide documents a process for developing action plans to address complex problems inherent in modern urbanized societies. It presents a framework for engaging local authorities with residents and local organizations in the design and provision of services to the community, while simultaneously protecting local, regional, and global ecosystems.

In presenting this planning framework, ICLEI has given us a book filled with insights that subvert many of our most basic assumptions and suggest fresh ways to think about them.

For all these reasons, the *Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide* is more than just another book. It is a lever for changing the art of managing sustainable development at the level of local government. Indeed this guide can serve as a symbol of today's historic transformation in the concept of partnerships—one that no informed person can afford to ignore.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell

NOTICE

Your local planning department will try to convince you that ICLEI is not affiliated with the United Nations

This is a lie.

You will hear that ICLEI is called Local Governments for Sustainability. The name was changed from International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives in order to convince you that ICLEI is a local group.

This is a lie.

ICLEI is a stealth organization that says it represents 600 million people worldwide. It is made up of local government officials who meet outside of the public view. These officials are influenced with model statutes, ordinances, and laws that are given to them by ICLEI to impose on their cities and counties. ICLEI was created to implement UN Agenda 21 /Sustainable Development throughout the world. Sustainable Development sounds like a good thing but it is a way of inventorying and controlling all resources—human and natural and all means of production in the world.

This sounds crazy, and it is. We're not.

UN Agenda 21 is the 'Agenda for the 21st century' agreed to by George H.W. Bush in 1992 and every president since. This is a land use and energy plan that restricts and monitors every aspect of your life. It has been used to write the General Plan for your city and county.

The following pages are directly from the Planning Guide for Local Agenda 21. You'll find it in the your local Planning Department

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