

Press Release: Urban Green Days 2005 ICLEI Case Study published!

Porto Region's intra-regional partnership for sustainable development awarded

Urban Green Days 2005 was a Europe-wide campaign that took place from 31 May – 3 June 2005, in connection with the European Commission's Green Week. A competition was held for campaign participants, with the award of an ICLEI Case Study to the project *Futuro Sustentável* from the Porto Region, Portugal, and commendations for Murcia, Spain, for an excellent urban water management scheme, and Roeselare, Belgium, for innovative awareness-raising activities. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, is now delighted to announce the publication of this Case Study!

Freiburg, 5 April 2006

Following the success of Urban Green Days 2005, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is delighted to announce the publication of the Urban Green Days 2005 ICLEI Case Study.

The Urban Green Days 2005 campaign delivered impressive results, providing a platform for 287 local governments from 27 countries to undertake 411 activities to tackle climate change and work for sustainable development. Urban Green Days was a European Commission, Directorate General Environment initiative coordinated in both 2004 and 2005 by ICLEI, with support from national partners and promoters.

As part of the Urban Green Days 2005 campaign, ICLEI offered participating communities the chance to compete for the Urban Green Days 2005 Case Study. By the closing date of 1 July 2005, ICLEI's European Secretariat had received 26 applications from local governments in 10 states.

The Selection Committee was impressed by the range and diversity of the applications – comprising regions, cities, towns and smaller communities; including innovative events and impressive strategic plans; demonstrating sustained commitment to sustainable development; showing initiative and creativity in awareness-raising; and making thoughtful thematic linkages between complex issues.

The assessment of the applications was made with three key factors in mind – was an activity or project part of a long-term strategy or commitment to sustainable development; were activities innovative and transferable to other circumstances; and were there tangible results, in order to quantify the impact of the activity or project. The Selection Committee for the Urban Green Days 2005 ICLEI Case Study Award reached a decision in August **and awarded the prize to the project *Futuro Sustentável* from the Porto Region, Portugal.**

The Selection Committee were highly impressed with the comprehensive and innovative nature of this project, which responds to the challenges of both intra-regional partnership working between municipalities and the need for community participation and awareness-raising. Moreover, this work integrates Urban Green Days as a contributive and complementary part of a process of regional environmental planning. In addition, the Selection Committee commended **the excellent urban water management programme undertaken by Murcia, Spain, and the innovative Urban Green Days awareness-raising activities of the town of Roeselare, Belgium.**

ICLEI has published its Case Studies series since 1991, presenting concepts for implementing sustainable development at the local level. The aim is to support local governments from around the world by presenting successfully tested concepts that may be replicated to deal with similar challenges in different contexts. The Porto Case Study was presented to the European Commission, as well as all participants, national partners and promoters of Urban Green Days 2005, and has been promoted world-wide by ICLEI.

"I hope this study can serve as a motivation to other regions, cities and authorities to start thinking in a more sustainable way to promote growth and development"

Dr. Nuno Barros, Coordinator, LIPOR - Serviço Intermunicipalizado de Gestão de Resíduos do Grande Porto

Learn more about Futuro Sustentável at: www.futurosustentavel.org

To access the ICLEI Case Study Series, visit: www.iclei.org

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