

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. <http://www.cobenefit.org/>.



Highlights

What can cities do to achieve co-benefits? – insights from C40



Monica Ridgway
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C40 is a network of the world's megacities that supports intercity collaboration and knowledge sharing to drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change. The ACP secretariat interviewed Monica Ridgway, Network Manager of C40, on their recent report "The Co-benefits of Sustainable City Projects" to seek her insights on how co-benefits can help promote sustainable cities.

(Download: http://c40-production-images.s3.amazonaws.com/other_uploads/images/486_Co-Benefits_of_Sustainable_final_highres.original.pdf?1450463417)

C40 recently published a report titled "The Co-benefits of Sustainable City Projects". What were some of the key findings from that report?

I manage the Green Growth Network at C40, which involves working with over 20 cities to strengthen their engagement with the private sector and make the case for climate action. Measuring the co-benefits of climate action has been a growing interest among C40 cities as it enables them to demonstrate that green actions not only help prevent climate change or protect the city from climate change, but can also have positive impacts on the economic and social wellbeing of citizens. Cities have indicated that they need further support in this area and C40 therefore developed the recent report on co-benefits in response to these requests.

One interesting case study in the C40 report involves a light emitting diode (LED) street lighting programme that Los Angeles initiated in 2009. This was also the largest LED retrofitting programme ever undertaken. The programme demonstrated that Los Angeles successfully reduced its energy use by 63.1% - more than two thirds of the city's total energy use. By the summer 2012, the project had saved more than 7 million dollars per year and mitigated CO₂ emissions per year by 43%. These savings greatly exceeded initial

expectations. Overall, the project contributed to the achievement of the city's GHG emission reduction targets under the Green Los Angeles plan. Beyond saving energy and mitigating climate change, the programme reduced maintenance costs, created jobs, improved conditions for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, and increased the comfort and safety of the local residents.

What are the greatest opportunities and challenges for cities as they aim to achieve co-benefits?

Making stronger arguments about co-benefits is essential. Quantifying co-benefits can help in this regard. However, research for the C40 report found that necessary data is often missing in cities. It is thus particularly important to strengthen data gathering processes; increase data transparency by making results public; and share calculations with other cities through tools such as online co-benefits calculators.

Collaboration with experts from local universities is also a key recommendation in the C40 report. This will help prioritise data gathering; identify the interventions with the greatest potential benefits; and build technical expertise for data gathering and analysis. All of the above efforts should work towards standardising co-benefits methods and metrics among cities.

What role can international networks like the C40 play in helping promote co-benefits in cities?

Standardising the methodology to quantify co-benefits among cities is a necessary and worthwhile goal. This report is just a step in that direction, but many case studies in the report highlighted that cities already have opportunities to work together and share knowledge on how to assess the co-benefits of sustainable city projects.

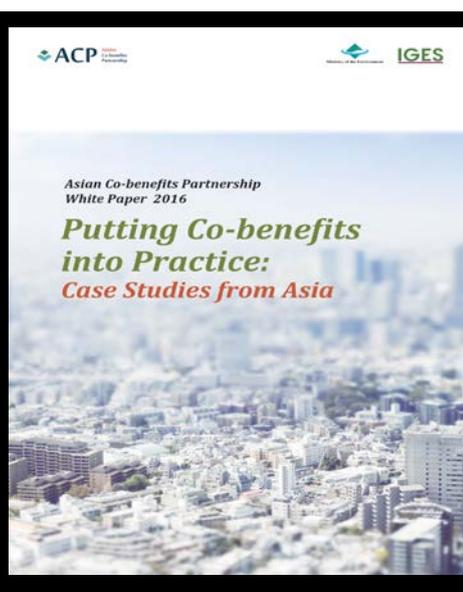
Under the Green Growth Network, we support city-city exchanges on co-benefits by facilitating webinars, the sharing of resources, as well as an annual workshop for city representatives to meet and exchange in person. C40 also recently launched a research-based partnership with Novo Nordisk aimed at demonstrating that green policies in cities are beneficial to both the state of the environment and the health of their citizens. Under this programme, C40 will work closely with cities to help build capacities to gather co-benefits data.

Updates

ACP to release new white paper entitled *Putting Co-Benefits into Practice: Case Studies from Asia*

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership's (ACP) second white paper comes at a watershed moment for the environmental and development community. Last year much of the world approved of a Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that could help transform future developmental patterns.

This transformation will require capitalizing on policies and measures with climate and development benefits. The second ACP white paper helps present this global opportunity. It then provides a review of co-benefits into practice in Asia's waste, transport and energy sectors.



Key Messages from the ACP White Paper

1. Policymakers need to steadily improve co-benefits data collection and monitoring processes.
2. Governments should seek local expertise and international collaboration when gathering, analysing, and sharing co-benefits data.
3. Capacity building of co-benefits needs to be sustained and fit-for-purpose
4. Institutional reforms across multiple levels and sectors are critical for maximizing the co-benefits of innovative solutions.
5. Scaling up innovations requires aligning diverse stakeholder interests.
6. Public finance can help start a co-benefits project; the private sector is critical for making a project financially viable in the medium to long-term.
7. Policymakers need consider not only the magnitude, but also the distribution of co-benefits.
8. Continued public awareness raising can also improve the performance of a co-benefits project or policy.

Publications

Jan P. Mayrhofer and Joyeeta Gupta. "The science and politics of co-benefits in climate policy." *Environmental Science & Policy* 57 (2016): 22-30.

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Activities

Clean Air Asia's 9th Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ) and the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Association's 17th World Clean Air Congress (WCAC), with the common theme *Clean Air for Cities – Perspectives and Solutions*, are meeting in a landmark event from 29 August-2 September, 2016, in Busan, South Korea.

[Register online:](http://cleanairforcities.org/sub02/sub01.php)
<http://cleanairforcities.org/sub02/sub01.php>


Ministry of the Environment