



Periodic Report to ICLEI

The Convention of the Forum 15 for Reducing Air Pollution and for Climate Protection - End of the preliminary Stage and advancement into the Planning Stage

April 2009



Forum 15
The Israeli Forum of
Self-Government Cities





Ashdod



Ashkelon



Beer-Sheva



Bat-Yam



Givatayim



Herzliya



Hadera



Holon



Haifa



Jerusalem



Kfar-Saba



Netanya



Petach Tikva



Rishon Lezion



Rehovot



Raanana



Ramat-Gan



Tel Aviv-Yafo

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Executive Summary

A. General Background

The Convention of the Forum 15 for Reducing Air Pollution and for Climate Protection (CCP Israel) is a local Israeli version of the ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign. It was signed on February 13, 2008, by eighteen large and mid-sized municipalities of the State of Israel (the fifteen cities of the forum and three additional large cities – Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Bat-Yam).

Under the Convention, the cities committed themselves to setting clear, measurable goals for reducing urban greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution, and to prepare a municipal plan of action to achieve those goals. The cities committed themselves to reducing air pollution in a way that resembles that of the large cities of the Western world, and to reducing GHG emissions by no less than 20% by the year 2020 as against the year 2000. The Convention of the Forum 15 is the first Israeli initiative of its kind, obligating a governmental authority to measurable, quantitative improvement in air quality for the nation's residents.

B. Outline of Activities for Implementing the Convention at the Municipal Level

As part of the Convention's implementation, the cities that signed the Convention are required to follow a detailed course of action, including four main stages each of which dictates a series of activities as listed here:

(a) Preliminary stage – This stage includes establishing a municipal steering committee; holding professional training for the steering committee; budget approval for implementing the planning stage; selection of a professional consulting team to accompany the municipality for the planning and preparation of the program; entering upon those projects that are immediately practicable.

(b) Planning stage – Performing a municipal survey to map and characterize air pollution, GHGs, and their sources; definition of a vision and guiding policy; definition of quantitative reduction goals; constructing an urban master plan.

(c) Integration and implementation stage – Integrating the urban master plan in the administration and in the city; Budgeting and initial planning for the continuation; Budgeting, implementation, and execution of physical projects; Education, public relations, marketing, and guidance; Legislation and enforcement; Periodic examination of compliance with annual goals; Monitoring and control.

(d) Re-evaluation and periodic updating of the urban master plan – Once every five years.

C. End of the Preliminary Stage and Start of Performing the Planning Stage – at the Municipal Level

(1) Performing the preliminary stage – Situation report

The following table reflects the degree to which each of the cities that signed the Convention has, at the time of this report's preparation, implemented the steps required from the municipalities **as part of the preliminary stage** and the **first step** required **as part of the planning stage** (beginning to perform the survey).

Performing the preliminary stage – Situation report																		
	Ashdod	Ashkelon	Beer Sheva	Bat-Yam	Givatayim	Herzliya	Hadera	Holon	Haifa	Jerusalem	Kfar Saba	Netanya	Petach Tikva	Rishon Lezion	Rehovot	Ramat Gan	Raanana	Tel Aviv - Yafo
Approving a budget for the process	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Appointing an urban steering committee	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Appointing a municipal coordinator	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Training the steering committee (work shop)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Contracting with a consultancy team	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Performing practicable immediate projects	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advancement into the planning stage																		
Begun performing the Inventory survey	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ completed ■ * In process ■ ** Not yet done

* **In process** –municipalities where a contract with a consultancy team has not yet been concluded. The municipalities of Jerusalem and Haifa have not yet finished the process of formulating a contract with a consultancy team, but they began quite some time ago to collect data for the performance of a municipal inventory of emissions.

** **Not yet done** – municipalities that have not yet begun the process of formulating a contract with a consultancy team and/or haven't begun to perform the municipal inventory of emissions. The municipality of Rishon Lezion is in the last stages of formulating a contract with a consultancy team, and therefore it plans to begin performing the inventory during the next few weeks. Rehovot and Petach Tikva haven't yet approved the budget for the process but they have chosen a consultancy team and finished the process of formulating a contract. Therefore, when the budget is approved they can immediately start performing the inventory. Ashkelon has just now signed the contract with the consultancy team and is expected to begin performing the inventory within some days. The municipalities of Beer-Sheva and Givatayim have not yet chosen a consultancy team; therefore, they haven't begun performing the inventory yet. Givatayim has not yet approved the budget for the process.

(2) Immediately Practicable Projects

The municipalities were advised to start carrying out projects that could go quickly into implementation as early as the preliminary stage of the Convention's implementation. Such projects, intended to be those that require no long-term planning and no special budgetary allocation, would give quick practical expression to the principles of the long-term urban master plan, but without waiting for the end of the lengthy planning process.

The full report includes examples of such projects that are being implemented in the Convention's eighteen signatory cities, in a number of spheres, with an emphasis on the four categories that, according to the Convention, the urban master plan is expected to include.

D. Driving and Administering the Process at the National Level, and Actual Implementation to Date

(1) Formulating and Preparing the Convention

The process of composing the Convention, including the achievement of agreement on its goals and on the character of their implementation, covered the entire year of 2007. The process took place under the aegis of a joint steering committee including representatives of the municipalities, of the Forum 15, of the Local Sustainability Center, as the representative of ICLEI in Israel, and of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and it included consideration of the Convention's various professional aspects and of its effect on the municipalities and on the pattern of their work, including the environmental, scientific, administrative, and legal aspects.

(2) Signing the Convention

On February 13, 2008 the Convention was signed at an event that featured a conference and lecture program concerning the struggle against global warming and against air pollution in large cities. At its climax was the ceremony of signing by the eighteen municipalities. The event, attended by the President of Israel and other dignitaries, was held at the headquarters of the "Council for a Beautiful Israel" in the middle of "Park Hayarkon", the primary green lung of the city of Tel Aviv – Yafo.

(3) Establishing the Steering and Control Task Force

In order to provide the municipalities with support tools for implementing the Convention, Forum 15 set up a task force for steering and control. The Local Sustainability Center and the Ministry of Environmental Protection are central partners in the process of developing the initiative and in setting up the task force. The task force consists of professional experts from Forum 15, from the municipalities, from government ministries, and from environmental organizations.

Among the tasks of the Steering and Control Task Force: Advancing the Convention and the programs that arise from it, both at the broad national level and at the individual municipal level; overall supervision of the process's progress, its administration, and its character; networking of the information, the knowledge, and the accumulated experience among the municipalities; coordination of activities, regulation, and budgets among the Forum, the municipalities, and the government ministries; and more.

The broad task force is divided into three implementation work groups: *The science group* is responsible for monitoring and supervising the process of performing the emissions surveys and preparing the forecasts at the municipalities, as well as for updating and improving the scientific methodology for the surveying. *The coordination and control group* deals with advancing the process on the horizontal level, by coordination with the government ministries and external organizations, by coordination among the municipalities themselves, by advancement of legislative initiatives, and more.

The public relations, training, and information group is responsible for advancing initiatives for various events to be held regularly at the municipalities in order to raise public consciousness of the process, as well as for providing professional training to the municipalities on various topics that will help them in the task of implementing the Convention.

(4) Activities of the Forum 15 Steering and Control Task Force for the Preliminary Stage

- (a) Outlining the course of action for implementing the Convention** – The outline breaks down the Convention’s implementation process into practical, consistent stages backed up by timelines. The outline of activities, like the other professional materials connected with the Convention, is published on the Forum’s website for the day-to-day use of the municipalities in the course of the process, and to maximize the process’s transparency for the general public.
- (b) Cycles of meetings with mayors / city managers and municipal steering committees, to spur the process and follow up on its execution** – The objective is to ensure that the municipalities have internalized the principles of the process, know the implementation outline for the Convention, and are committed to the process both at the municipality’s managerial level and at the professional and operational levels. At the same time, questions and suggestions raised by the municipalities along the way are answered in a regular, timely fashion in the framework of daily contacts held between the Forum and the urban coordinators who are leading the process in the municipalities.
- (c) Forming a central pool of consultancy teams for preparing the urban plans** – Forum 15 published, through the Local Government Economic Services Ltd. (LGES), an RFP (request for proposals) for establishment of a central pool of consultancy teams. By way of the RFP, eleven consultancy teams were approved. They all met the strict requirements that the RFP presented, including expertise, knowledge, and experience in the various areas that the Convention deals with. In addition the Forum prepared, with LGES’ assistance, a proposal for a recommended contract between a municipality and its chosen consultancy team, in order to shorten and accelerate the contracting processes as well as to include emphases and special clauses that best serve and implement the Convention’s goals in the cities. The Forum also held a meeting with the consultancy teams, in order to establish acquaintance and coordination. The meeting helped build direct, ongoing ties between the consultancy team members and the Forum, deepen the teams’ familiarity with the Convention and the outline of its activities, and coordinate expectations for the sake of constructing a consistent professional process.
- (d) Writing a professional guide to performing an urban emissions survey** – For implementing the first stage of the Convention, the Forum’s Steering and Control Task Force prepared a professional guide that outlines a consistent methodology for performing an urban emissions survey. The guide includes a methodology for surveying GHG emissions, based on the methodology of the international ICLEI organization, as well as a methodology for performing a survey of air pollutants.
- (e) Formulating and presenting training workshops for the participating municipalities** – In the course of the year that has passed since the Convention was signed, four professional workshops have been held for those involved in implementing the Convention at the municipalities: **(1)** Immediately after the signature event for the Convention, a workshop was held for enrichment and for sharing the knowledge that had accumulated at the municipalities of Freiburg and Milan regarding advancement of climate-protection programs. The workshop was addressed by the mayor of Freiburg, Dr. Dieter Salomon; and by Mr. Eduardo Croci, a deputy mayor of Milan. **(2)** Each of the municipal steering committees attended a

workshop for preliminary familiarization with the basic concepts related to the climatic crisis and urban air pollution. In the same framework, possibilities were weighed for integrating those concepts into the agenda of the municipalities. **(3)** A two-days workshop on the topic of mapping, calculating, and reducing GHG emissions and urban air pollutants was presented to the urban coordinator, with the participation of two representatives of the ICLEI organization, who discussed with the municipalities a variety of topics which they have confronted during the implementation of the Convention, adding the experience of other municipalities in the world that have advanced similar processes. **(4)** A professional training workshop for the performance of urban emissions surveys was held for the municipalities' professionals and for the consultancy teams that are members of the pool. There they learned in depth the professional methodology for performing the survey.

(f) Pooling and coordinating activities, responsibilities, and budgets with the government ministries and other bodies – This includes, among other things, centralized collection of data and information from non-municipal bodies for the purpose of surveying urban emissions (the Israel Electric Corporation, the energy and fuel companies, the Central Bureau of Statistics, and others); coordination of appeals with the government offices, for funding of environmental projects in the cities; participation in committees and professional forums on topics related to the Convention (e.g. participating in the Ministry of Environmental Protection's committee for establishing a documentation procedure for GHG emissions, in the committee headed by the Interior Ministry's Tel Aviv district regarding policy to advance green building, and more).

E. Looking Forward

We expect that by September 2009, all the municipalities that signed the Convention will finish their urban emission surveys, and later in the year they will define their annual goals for reduced emissions and begin to compose their city's full, comprehensive master plan for reducing air pollution and GHG emissions.

To our regard, regarding a number of subtopics, we have encountered various problems in obtaining the data and information required for the inventory's complete execution. The principal cause is a lack of cooperation from some of the non-municipal bodies that we approach for data collection, such as the Energy and fuel companies and the national public transportation companies. In this connection, the excellent cooperation we received from the Central Bureau of Statistics and from the Metropolitan Mass Transit System (NTA) should be noted. They did everything in their power to provide the cities with information that was appropriately prepared, exact, and complete.

The Steering and Control Task Force continues closely in touch with the process. It provides the municipalities with maximum information and with the necessary professional instruments for optimal performance of the planning stage.

The task force shall continue to work energetically in advancing the Convention and its practical implementation, and shall continue to update the appropriate bodies and the general public regarding the progress of the Convention's implementation process, transparently and with full disclosure.

For further information and details, contact Atty. Linor Sagi, project manager, at linor@forum15.org.il or at 972-3-6844236.

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A. General Background

(1) Forum 15

Forum 15 brings together the self-government cities of Israel, which receive no balancing grants or development grants from the government and are managed as closed economies on the basis of their independent financial resources.

The following cities are members of the forum: **Ashdod, Beer Sheva, Givatayim, Herzliya, Hadera, Holon, Haifa, Kfar Saba, Netanya, Petach Tikva, Rishon Lezion, Rehovot, Ramat Gan, Raanana, and Tel Aviv – Yafo.**

The cities of the forum include nearly 3 million residents (approximately 40% of Israel's population) and many further surrounding populations make daily use of the municipal and metropolitan services that the cities of the Forum provide. **The populations served in practice by the cities of the forum are estimated at more than 80% of the State of Israel's population total.**

The magnitude of the populations served by the Forum's cities, together with the cities' central role in the national arena, puts the cities of Forum 15 at the forefront against the national challenges of the State of Israel, which include the economy, employment, research and development, health, education, culture, transportation, environmental quality, infrastructure, urban planning, welfare and the disadvantaged, immigrant absorption, and more. By meeting those difficulties and challenges, and despite the fact these fifteen cities receive no financial aid from the government, the independent cities have become an island of stability and success in the expanse of local public activity.

Forum 15 focuses its efforts on advancement, assistance, and development for those member cities by, among other things, advancing joint initiatives and projects and reformulating the relationship of the central government and the large Israeli cities, with the aim of decentralizing responsibility and of broad administrative independence for the large cities.

One of the central projects advanced by Forum 15 is the Convention for Reducing Air Pollution and for Climate Protection.

(2) The Local Sustainability Center

The Local Sustainability Center was founded at 2006 in order to advance the capacity for sustainability in Israeli local government. The project was initiated by four partners - The Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, The Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. The Center aims to realign the local government arena in Israel by instigating awareness, developing tools, training and networking advocates, local government officials, architects, planners and mayors, coaching and nurturing pilot projects in the communities. The Local Sustainability Center is acting as the Israeli Focal point of the CCP Campaign of ICLEI.

(3) The Convention of the Forum 15 for Reducing Air Pollution and for Climate Protection (CCP Israel)

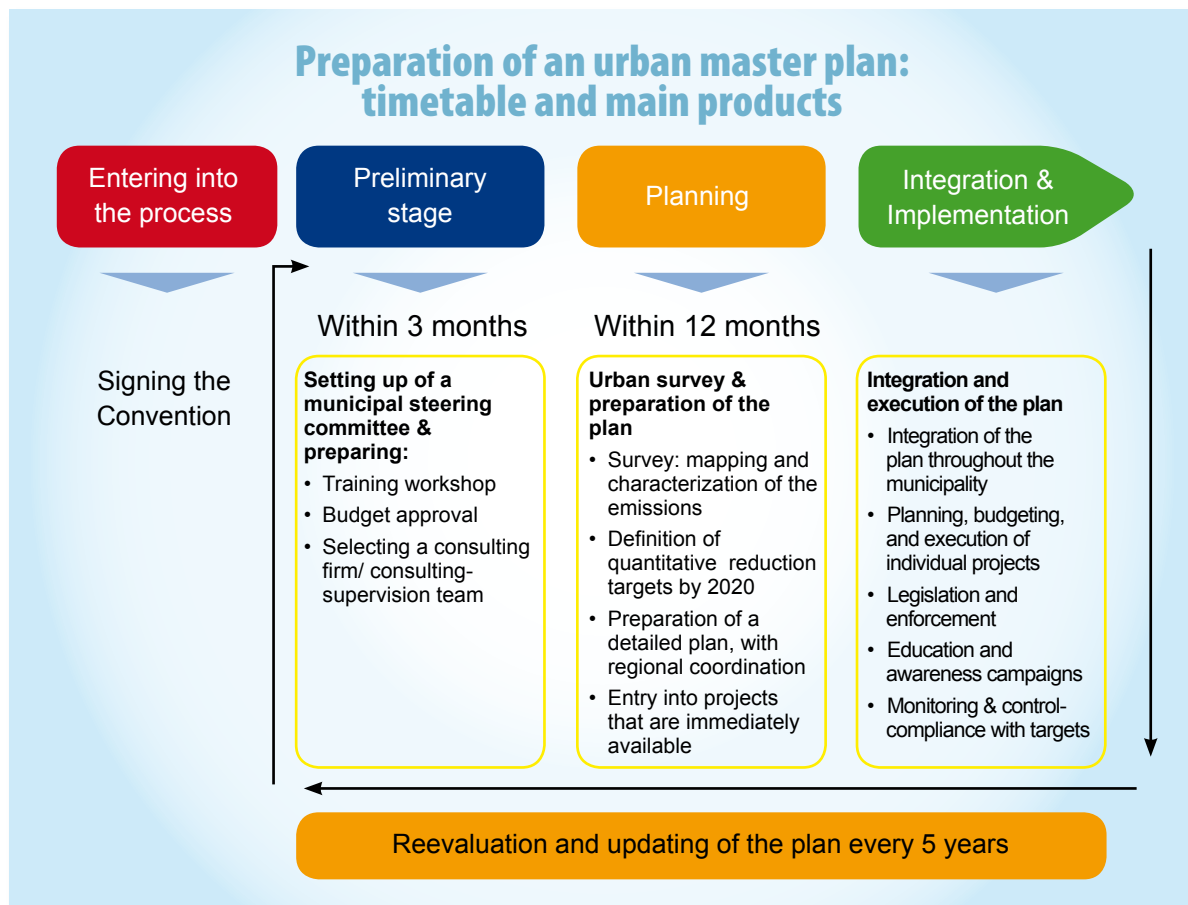
The Convention of the Forum 15 for Reducing Air Pollution and for Climate Protection (CCP Israel) is a local Israeli version of the ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign. The Convention initiative was promoted by **Forum 15 together with the Israeli Local Sustainability Center.**

On February 13, 2008, eighteen large and mid-sized municipalities signed the Forum 15 Convention. Those cities include both **the fifteen Forum members and three more large cities – Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Bat-Yam.** Thus eighteen municipalities took upon themselves an explicit obligation to set clear quantitative goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution in the city, and to prepare an urban plan for action that would lead to the achievement of those goals. The Convention incorporates the obligation to **prepare an urban master plan, with milestones** that are clear, known in advance, and detailed in the international ICLEI Convention, as well as the obligation to set clear quantitative reduction goals for each city with a strategic view to the year 2020. With the Convention, the municipalities commit themselves to reducing air pollution in a way that resembles that of the large cities of the Western world, and to **reducing GHG emissions by no less than 20% by the year 2020 as against the year 2000.** Note that the obligation to reducing levels of air pollution according to the Israeli Convention, as well as the specification of a percentage of reduction for GHG emissions, is an Israeli addition to the international Convention. The latter does not include those obligations in the body of the Convention.

The Forum 15 Convention is the first of its kind in Israel, obligating a governmental authority to measurable, quantitative improvement in air quality for the nation's residents. We believe that the Convention's implementation will bring significant, comprehensive improvement in the quality of life, and of the environment, for the residents of the state, in widely varied spheres of life. Recognizing that importance, the Forum is striving to provide practical instruments to the municipalities, as detailed hereunder.

The text of the Israeli Convention is attached as Appendix A of this report.

B. Outline of Activities for Implementing the Convention at the Municipal Level



As part of the Convention’s implementation, the cities that signed the Convention are required to follow the outline that is detailed here:

(1) The Preliminary Stage

- a. **Establishing a leadership forum at the municipality** – Establishing a steering committee headed by the mayor or city manager, tasked with leading and managing the process of preparing the urban master plan for reducing air pollution and protecting the climate, as well as with supervising the implementation and progress of the entire process. The municipalities are expected to set up broad-based steering committees representing all the relevant bodies that deal with management, planning, and development for the municipal offices and for the city in all those spheres related to, or touching upon, the key topics with which the urban master plan is concerned. Moreover, the municipalities have been advised to consider including appropriate governmental representatives and representatives of external public and professional bodies who could advance the process, both in the planning stage and in the implementation and integration stage. In addition, they were advised to consider including representatives of the residents and of environmental organizations.

Each municipal steering committee appointed a municipal coordinator from among the municipal employees, to centralize the committee’s activities and for the advancement and day-to-day administration of the process, coordination among the parties involved, enlistment of resources,

contacts with the parties involved and with the Forum 15 staff, and more. It was stressed that the coordinator must be someone with a system-encompassing outlook (a general manager, deputy general manager, head of administration, senior department manager, or in any case a holder of office who deals hands-on with overall urban strategic planning, with strategic planning in the field of urban planning and environmental quality, or the like).

- b. Centralized training workshop for members of the municipal steering committee** – Each steering committee must attend professional training provided by Forum 15 and by the Local Sustainability Center, including absorption of basic concepts, professional familiarization with the topic of air pollution, the global climatic crisis and the options for action to moderate it, lessons from experience in Israel and in the world, and so on.
- c. Approving the budget for preparing the urban master plan** – A precondition for joining the Forum 15 Convention was approving a budget of 200–250 thousand shekels for the years 2008–2009, earmarked both for achieving readiness within the city and for the preparation of a survey and of the urban master plan. It was recommended that the matter of budgetary approval, and indeed the fact of the municipality's entry into the above mentioned process, be brought to the city council for their information and/or approval. The city council's decision in this matter constitutes the starting point within the city, and it symbolizes the commitment of the municipality and of the city council to bring about a significant overall change regarding air pollution and climate protection. Of course the need to implement and integrate the plan at municipal headquarters and in the city, as well as the need to develop a detailed plan regarding specific topics, will require further budgeting, for which the time will come after the urban master plan has been formulated.
- d. Choosing a professional consultancy team for developing and preparing the plan** – The steering committee of each municipality chooses a consultancy firm or a professional consultancy team that has the necessary expertise for accompanying the municipality in preparing the emissions survey and the urban master plan in all its phases according to the outline and timeline defined in the Forum 15 guidelines. Because of the matter's complexity and implications, it was recommended that the selected team will have great professional knowledge and experience not only in the relevant environmental spheres (air pollution, climate protection, energy conservation, and green building) but also in matters of transportation, industry, and construction, in matters of planning, and in advancing projects and initiatives of considerable scope.
- e. Entering into projects that are immediately practicable** – The municipalities were asked to identify, already at this stage, a limited number of projects that were highly practicable and could be put into execution. The municipal steering committee was advised to act toward their quick implementation, rather than waiting for planning stage to end before putting them into practice. The performance of these projects, also described as “gathering the low-hanging fruit,” gives quick practical expression to the principles of the long-range urban master plan, and thus a positive momentum is created for the process, a contribution is made to raising public consciousness and involvement, and long-range projects are more rapidly advanced. Following are examples of projects that can be quickly and inexpensively implemented without need for long-range planning or for special budgeting:
 - Quick advancement of projects that were planned in the past and that serve the plan's goals (for example bicycle paths, a neighborhood park, solar street lighting) but were previously downgraded among the municipal priorities in favor of other projects.
 - Incentives for municipal employees to come to work by public transportation, on bicycles, or by carpooling/carsharing.

- Immediate action to reduce consumption of electricity at the municipality’s facilities – for example, calibrating the air conditioners to an average temperature, automatically extinguishing lights and computer screens, and so on.

(2) The Planning Stage

- a. Performing a municipal survey to map and characterize air pollution, GHGs, and their sources –**
In this stage, each municipality performs mapping and characterization of the city’s air pollution, of GHGs, and of their sources, dividing them into major sectors such as transportation, refuse, energy use and construction, etc. A reference calculation of GHG levels has been prepared for the base year 2000, for the year that the process started (2007), and for the target year 2020. (The forecast assumes “business as usual.”) The reference and the forecast constitute a yardstick for measuring the city’s progress in reducing GHGs (greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide and methane) as the process progresses. In addition, sources were mapped and emissions were calculated for the following air pollutants: airborne particles, hydrocarbons – volatile organic compounds (without methane), nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide.
- b. Defining a vision and guiding policy –** Based on the municipal survey results, as well as on analysis of the city’s background data, the municipalities and the municipal steering committees shall at this point formulate their policy and vision regarding reduction of air pollution and protection of the city environment. In addition, major topics and priorities shall be defined for continued treatment in the framework of the urban master plan’s preparation. It was recommended that the resident public should participate in forming the municipal policy and vision.
- c. Defining quantitative reduction goals –** The municipality and the municipal steering committee shall at this stage define and set a quantitative goal for reducing GHG emissions in the city, according to the following set of target years: 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020; and with respect to emission of air pollutants, according to the following set of target years: 2012, 2016, and 2020. As mentioned above, according to the signed commitment in the Convention this GSG reduction goal must amount to not less than a 20% reduction in GSG emissions by the year 2020 (as against the year 2000). After the overall quantitative goal is set at each municipality, the urban steering committee shall set quantitative sectoral sub-goals, such as a quantitative goal for reducing energy consumption and a quantitative goal for reducing air pollution and emissions from transportation, from industry, etc.
- d. Details of the urban master plan and its topics –** The urban master plans should each deal with the following four main categories: transportation and fuels; energy conservation and green building; open areas and greening of the city; refuse and recycling. The municipality and the urban steering committee shall independently set the priorities and the quantity of resources to be invested in each of the categories. In preparing and following the urban master plan, the municipality and the urban steering committee will additionally, and in order to ensure the success of the initiative and of its implementation, need to consider the educational and public-relations facets of the matter of reducing air pollution and protecting the environment. The methods for doing so should include educational and public-relations activities and creation of incentives for advancing the various specific initiatives, not only at schools but also at community centers, in informal educational programs, and among the broader urban public, as well as among the municipality’s own employees.

Further points highlighted for the municipalities' attention during preparation of the plan:

- Pooling of resources with additional bodies – the government, philanthropic funds, other municipalities, etc.
- Cooperation and program coordination with the adjoining municipalities.
- Public transparency of data – Presenting the work process for preparing the urban master plan, as well as presenting the data regarding the plan's implementation, on the municipal website, in informational leaflets for the public, in notices, and in stories suggested to the press.
- List of responsible offices – It is important that the master plan explicitly state the spheres of responsibility and the responsible offices for each one of the topics that the plan deals with.
- A preliminary SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats to the plan's successful fruition), and a suggested method for successfully confronting and removing the obstacles.
- Definition of clear timelines for performance.
- Precise definition of the mechanisms and resources required for carrying out the plan.
- Development of criteria for prioritizing the execution of the plan's component parts.

(3) The Integration and Implementation Stage

- a. Integrating habits of management and organization** – The coordinator for the process will lead the integration of the urban master plan at the municipal offices and in the city, under full supervision by the urban steering committee, which is led by the mayor or city manager. The integration stage includes following up and ensuring that the plan has been internalized at all the relevant municipal departments; managing and organizing the work groups and think groups; developing creative solutions for confronting and bypassing obstacles; constructing internal work procedures for the organization; learning lessons and constantly improving the organization's structures and the management of the plans' advancement; and so on. The work in this stage also includes interacting with appropriate external bodies such as Forum 15, the neighboring municipalities, government ministries, the public, support agencies, and more.
- b. Budgeting and initial planning for the continuation** – In keeping with the areas of activity and the initiatives that were set down in the urban master plan, the timelines, and the priorities, a more detailed plan shall be prepared covering the specific projects for the long term. Such detailed plans shall deal with specific, focused initiatives and shall include greater and more detailed discussion of the budgetary, legal, administrative, and operational aspects for the sake of empirically implementing the initiatives on the ground.
- c. Budgeting, implementation, and execution of physical projects** – Budgeting and implementation of projects that are ripe for performance, from among the various topics included in the urban master plan, according to the priorities stated in the plan. Subsequently, preparing tenders for work; employment of contractors; actual performance of physical projects while keeping the public informed of the stages of the process.
- d. Education, public relations, marketing, and guidance** – It is a matter of principle, and of importance, to enlist the municipal educational system and municipal public-relations system as allies in carrying out the urban master plan. Accordingly the municipalities have been advised –

- To work toward the formulation and operation of an educational program for reducing air pollution and protecting the climate, a program inseparable from the overall educational agenda of the formal and informal educational systems.
 - To operate system of publicity for consciousness-raising, training, inculcation, and marketing of the basic concepts, and the operative implications, of sustainable development.
 - To enlist the assistance of further publicity practitioners from external bodies such as Forum 15, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Israel Electric Corporation, the Ministry of Transport, the Israel Green Building Council (ILGBC), environmental organizations, and others.
- e. Legislation and enforcement** – The operation of a system of enforcement is a vital, necessary stage for the successful achievement of the program. It includes amending existing ordinances if and as necessary and intensifying the activity for their enforcement. The municipality shall act in cooperation with additional enforcement authorities such as the traffic police, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of National Infrastructures, and the Ministry of Construction and Housing. The establishment of a body of municipal wardens, to aid in enforcement, was recommended (insofar as legally permitted). Moreover, notices to the public regarding intensified enforcement, along with the rationale and emphasizing the importance of the matter, were recommended.
- f. Compliance with annual goals** – A periodic examination of compliance with annual goals, and publication of the results, with maximum transparency. If the goals are not met, the urban steering committee shall examine and clarify the reasons and shall organize for appropriate improvement and correction.
- g. Monitoring and control** – Monitoring and control shall be performed as an integral part of the plan, through the urban steering committee. This is a critical component for the initiative’s success, and because of its great importance it shall be performed both on the intra-city level (the urban steering committee) and through the central staff led by Forum 15. It is understood that through constant monitoring and control, the goals that each municipality set for itself will undergo improvement. If necessary, obstacles will be analyzed more closely, all in the effort to constantly improve achievement, in cases where the municipality failed to meet its goals.

(4) Re-Evaluation and Periodic Updating of the Urban Master Plan

Once every five years, the urban steering committee shall perform an examination and re-evaluation of the urban master plan. In the light of the findings from the examination and re-evaluation, the goals shall be updated, as will the detailed plans and the implementation mechanisms.

C. End of the Preliminary Stage and Start of Performing the Planning Stage – at the Municipal Level

(1) Performing the preliminary stage – Situation report

The following table reflects the degree to which each of the municipalities that signed the Convention has, at the time of this report’s preparation, implemented the steps required from the municipalities **as part of the preliminary stage** and the **first step** required **as part of the planning stage** (beginning to perform the inventory). With the finalization of contracts between the municipalities and their professional consultancy teams, the municipalities began implementing the planning stage, which is expected to last approximately a year.

Performing the preliminary stage – Situation report																		
	Ashdod	Ashkelon	Beer Sheva	Bat-Yam	Givatayim	Herzliya	Hadera	Holon	Haifa	Jerusalem	Kfar Saba	Netanya	Petach Tikva	Rishon Lezion	Rehovot	Ramat Gan	Raanana	Tel Aviv - Yafo
Approving a budget for the process	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Appointing an urban steering committee	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Appointing a municipal coordinator	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Training the steering committee (work shop)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Contracting with a consultancy team	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Performing practicable immediate projects	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advancement into the planning stage																		
Begun performing the Inventory survey	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ completed ■ * In process ■ ** Not yet done

*** In process** –municipalities where a contract with a consultancy team has not yet been concluded. The municipalities of Jerusalem and Haifa have not yet finished the process of formulating a contract with a consultancy team, but they began quite some time ago to collect data for the performance of a municipal inventory of emissions.

**** Not yet done** – municipalities that have not yet begun the process of formulating a contract with a consultancy team and/or haven’t begun to perform the municipal inventory of emissions. The municipality of Rishon Lezion is in the last stages of formulating a contract with a consultancy team, and therefore it plans to begin performing the inventory during the next few weeks. Rehovot and Petach Tikva haven’t yet approved the budget for the process but they have chosen a consultancy team and finished the process of formulating a contract. Therefore, when the budget is approved they can immediately start performing the inventory. Ashkelon has just now signed the contract with the consultancy team and is expected to begin performing the inventory within some days. The municipalities of Beer-Sheva and Givatayim have not yet chosen a consultancy team; therefore, they haven’t began performing the inventory yet. Givatayim has not yet approved the budget for the process.

(2) Execution of Immediately Practicable Projects

Presented below are a number of examples of the activities being performed today in the Convention's signatory cities, representing a number of spheres but with an emphasis on the four categories that the urban master plan is expected to include.

It must be stressed that the environmental activity performed in the Convention's signatory cities is much broader than what is detailed here. The sampling presented below is not representative and is intended merely to provide a sense of the varied projects being advanced in the cities as part of "gathering the low-hanging fruit" within the scope of the Convention.

Ashdod

Energy and Green Building – Building State Religious School 12 – Pilot

The school was planned for a green lung and conserves energy. High, acoustic ceilings were built in the school to minimize classroom noise, natural light enters from a number of directions, and natural ventilation was added. The entrances and windows were planned to maximize incoming air for natural ventilation of the classrooms and for less use of air conditioners. Energy-saving lights were installed in the classrooms, as were systems for sensing human presence and for adjusting the classroom lighting with respect to the natural light. The exterior of the school was painted completely, not only contributing to the school's appearance but also aiding the building's thermal and acoustic insulation.

Waste and Recycling – Establishing a Waste-Sorting Station

It has been decided to establish a waste-sorting station, accompanied by preparation of a strategic master plan for waste treatment including a combination of all the activities required for advancement of recycling and reduction of the waste transferred to the dump. Among the contents of the plan will be goals, methods, and means for separating waste; a plan for education, public relations, and publicity; preparation and enforcement of regulations; and economic incentives.

Ashkelon

Transportation and Fuels – Development of Bicycle Paths

A budget was approved for creating a bicycle path that will connect the Shimshon neighborhood, which is the city's largest neighborhood, to the city center. Moreover, paving has begun for bicycle paths in the various residential neighborhoods to thicken the existing network of bicycle paths (totaling 7 kilometers to date).

Energy – Saving Water in Gardening¹

Action has been taken to increase economy in watering the public parks:

1. Upgrading the watering system by installing regulator devices that reduce the flow to sprinklers from 120–130 liters per hour to a quantity of 60–70 liters per hour.
2. The computer systems were upgraded with long-distance controls to discern instances of water escaping from the watering system and cut off the flow of water automatically. The system also provides for cutting off the water all across the city with the press of a button.
3. A GIS system for the public parks was installed, for proper and efficient watering. In practical terms – previously 1600 dunams (400 acres) consumed 1200 cubic meters of water per dunam, and now the consumption is down to 600 cubic meters per dunam.
4. A modern IMS system was installed that can provide for watering according to the type of plant (grass, flowers, trees).

Beer Sheva

Open Areas and Greening of the City

Nahal Olim project – Rehabilitation of the Nahal Olim gully for purposes of hiking, sports, relaxation, education, and civic geography – all this with a neighborhood nearby that suffers from a lack of environmental, economic, and social resources.

Temporary groves – Transformation of open spaces that are not intended for building within the next twenty years into neighborhood groves to improve the city's appearance and the environmental quality.

Waste and Recycling – A Seminar on Waste and recycling

Seminars are held for schoolchildren regarding degradable and non-degradable substances, the problem of the volume of waste, the degradation times for solid waste, solutions for reducing waste, and more.

Bat Yam

Energy and Green Building – Establishing Infrastructures for Using Grey Water

Infrastructures for use of grey water are being set up in residential buildings, on the scale of some 1000 housing units in a new neighborhood being built in the city's south.

Open Areas and Greening of the City

Tree-planting – There was massive planting, of some 3000 new trees in the city, between 2004 and 2008. The project's continuation is planned at the volume of some 400 trees per year.

Landscaping and Temporary Landscaping – Landscaping and planting in all the areas intended as open public spaces across the city, and care and greening of the schoolyards and kindergarten yards as a supplementary pool of green areas for the public benefit. Moreover, mayoral authority was intensively used in transforming unbuilt private lands to public parks on a temporary basis. In all, the city's green space was doubled over the last four years, with some 900 dunams (220 acres) of green areas added.

Givatayim

Open Areas and Greening of the City – Municipal Park

Givatayim Park was inaugurated in May 2008. Its area is about 40 dunams (10 acres). The park has drillholes that bring rainwater down to the aquifer, Mediterranean flora that economize on water and require no special care, a sophisticated computerized system for watering and water conservation, and free wireless Internet for the residents.

Waste and Recycling – Separation at the Source

In the course of 2008, paper collection bins were placed in the trash rooms of the city's residential buildings.

Herzliya

Open Areas and Greening of the City – Trade in Greenhouse Gases

Advancement of a joint project of the Herzliya Municipality and the Good Energy Initiative, for voluntary trade in GHGs which will be fixed by trees of the **Municipal Forest Project** – planting temporary groves on lots intended for future development. Tens of dunams (tens of thousands of square meters) of temporary municipal forest have been planted.

Waste and Recycling – Subsidized Sale of Composters

For four years now, the municipality has been selling composters at a 50% subsidy, for use in low-rise housing. To date 120 composters have been sold. In 2008 the pace of sales accelerated significantly.

Hadera

Energy and Green Building – Photovoltaic Cells

Hadera is organizing to run a pilot installation of photovoltaic cells on the roofs of six of the city's public buildings. A tender has been prepared, and a series of meetings with funders is underway. The pilot will be a large one even in national terms, valued at some 6 million shekels.

Open Areas and Greening of the City – Planting Citrus Groves

A project feasibility study is being carried out for the planting of citrus groves all along the south of Hadera, to be leased to farmers who would work them. The groves are intended to be irrigated by means of a water supply from Hadera's waste purification plant.

Holon

Transportation and Fuels – Examination of Vehicular Air Pollution

As part of the immediately practicable activities for reducing the city's air pollution, bimonthly examination of vehicles on the city's central arteries was undertaken starting in May 2008. Analysis of the results shows that in 7 days of examination, more than 200 vehicles were checked, and of them 20 vehicles (some 10%) were disqualified; thus the examinations serve as a deterrent to the owners of vehicles that pollute.

Energy – Increasing Energy Efficiency

There was a decision to install a HY-SAVE system in the municipality building, enabling the cooling system to be more efficiently used. The system will bring savings in electricity consumption and will improve the municipality building's internal climate.

Haifa

Transportation and Fuels – Public Transportation

A public-transportation lane is currently being paved in Haifa – Israel's longest, at 24 kilometers in length, costing some 250 million shekels. The lane will be separate and rapid. It will give priority to public transportation at traffic lights and also serve the Metronit (Haifa's Bus Rapid Transit system). In parallel, a trial program is underway to bring the arterial bus lines out of the residential areas and create short, frequent, cyclical bus lines there – called the "Shchunatit," meaning "of the neighborhood." The Shchunatit strengthens

the city center by providing direct access that links the neighborhoods with the city center and complements the arterial bus system. The service is provided by minibuses that are unique to the project – small, quiet, non-polluting, and with low floors. Passengers will transfer between the neighborhood and arterial bus lines without charge.

Energy – Street Lighting

The municipality has gone over to daily calibration of street lighting (having previously calibrated every 10–14 days). The cost of the transition came to 60,000 shekels, while the financial profit from saving energy comes to 300,000 shekels. In addition, the municipality carried out a trial project on one of the city streets in which an electronic choke was installed, which brings a 30% savings in overall energy consumption and extends the street lights' bulb life for 3–5 years. When the project is broadened to further main arteries, it will save some 2–3 million shekels a year.

Jerusalem

Transportation and Fuels – Jerusalem Bylaw for Preventing Hazards: Air Pollution, 2007

Shortly before the Convention was signed, in 2007, a Jerusalem bylaw was passed for preventing air-pollution hazards. Because this bylaw enables Jerusalem to more easily start immediate implementation of ideas relating to the Convention that was signed in February 2008, Jerusalem has already embarked on a gradual process of preventing the use of conventional fuels in the energy systems of large institutions and plants, with a transition to use of LPG. The transition has already been made at Hadassah University Hospital, Mount Scopus; at the Teva factory; and at the Sigma factory – all located within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries.

Energy and Green Building

Solar collectors – The municipality has begun advancing a project for installation of electricity-producing solar collectors on the roofs of the educational institutions and public buildings in the city. The project, at an estimated cost of some 100 million shekels, includes the installation of photovoltaic cells that transform solar energy into electricity. The electricity will be sold to the Israel Electric Corporation.

Producing Energy from a landfill - A tender has been issued for production of energy from the methane accumulating at the Abu Dis dump; this will be clean energy.

Kfar Saba

Energy Conservation and Green Building –Green Building Standard

The planning and building committee in Kfar Saba adopted the Green Building standards as compulsory standards for all new construction plans in the city. The Green Building standards were prepared for compulsory implementation, for the first time in Israel, as part of the planning for Israel's first two green neighborhoods, which are being built in Kfar Saba and include some 5000 housing units.

Waste and Recycling –A Pilot Program for Recycling Organic Waste

The Kfar Saba municipality is currently running a trial to examine whether citywide recycling of organic waste is feasible and how strongly the residents and the municipality can be enlisted to significantly reduce the amount of waste produced in the city and sent to the dump. Families throughout the city were chosen to purchase municipally subsidized composters and will operate them at their homes with the support of a municipal support system created especially to serve the project. These composters will be supplemented by a

series of neighborhood composters installed at selected places in the city and operated under the municipality's responsibility to examine the feasibility of composting at the neighborhood and apartment-building level. At the end of the trial, the municipality will evaluate the initiative, provide feedback, and consider expanding the project to further parts of the city.

Netanya

Transportation and Fuels

Carpooling – The Netanya municipality inaugurated the *Yachad B'Tnua* (“Together in Travel”) project at <http://www.ya1.co.il>. The website is intended as a social site where people can find carpool partners for travel to work, home, or elsewhere. The project will immediately bring about, inter alia, a reduction in the number of vehicles on the roads.

Bicycle paths – Paving of extensively interconnected bicycle paths: a path was paved along Highway 2 and in the Ramat Poleg neighborhood. Another path is planned for the Kiriath Hasharon neighborhood, and a municipal bicycle park is planned along Route 57.

Energy and Green Building –Green Building Standard

By order of the town engineer of Netanya, contractors are required to present elements of green building in the construction plans that they submit. Additionally, Netanya is participating in a national pilot program for green building in school construction.

Petach Tikva

Energy Conservation and Green Building

Adoption of a Green Building standard – The local planning and building committee decided to adopt the Israeli Green Building Standard for public buildings, and planning has finished for the first green school (named after Ehud Manor). In addition, the municipality's employees have been trained on the topic of green building.

Producing energy from the municipal dump – A contract has been signed with an American company that has begun work to handle the greenhouse gases emitted from the municipal dump in town. Work is expected to end in 2012. The initiative is expected to handle some 760,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Rishon Lezion

Transportation and Fuels

Examining vehicular air pollution – A monitoring station for vehicular air pollution was set up at the southern exit from Rishon Lezion toward Nes Ziona.

Monitoring in industry – Plants that operate oil tanks are required to monitor the air leaving the chimneys.

“Car-Free Friday” – Since the start of the school year in 2008, children of all the Rishon Lezion elementary schools have been asked to come to school on foot, in order to encourage exercise, strengthen the children's relationship with their parents, and contribute to preserving the environment.

Rehovot

Transportation and Fuels – Public Transportation

Advancement of a project to favor public transportation on Herzl Street, which will define part of the street as a public-transportation street – a pedestrian mall allowing for public transportation only. In addition, a public-transportation lane will be instituted from Bilu Junction to the Science Park, including operation of hybrid buses and automatic fare-handling.

Energy – Increasing Energy Efficiency

A project was carried out that increased the efficiency of street lighting by means of transformer controls that contribute a savings of about 150,000 shekels a year. In addition, timers were installed in the municipality building to control the timing of the air conditioning and thus prevent the air conditioners from staying continuously on.

Ramat Gan

Transportation and Fuels

Service stations – The municipality has begun gradually organizing to install systems to control emission of gasoline fumes at the time of vehicle fuelling (Stage 2) at eight public service stations (Specifically, the system has begun operating at one station, it will begin at five more within half a year, and it will begin at the other two by the end of 2009). Moreover, the municipality has begun upgrading the municipal service station according to strict environmental standards, including Stage 2.

Bicycles – The municipality has purchased bicycles to be used the department's building inspectors for their work in the city.

Air-monitoring patrol – As of October 2008, a mobile patrol is monitoring vehicular air pollution in the city.

Raanana

Energy Conservation and Green Building

Green Building – The Israeli standard for building was adopted, and the plenary of the local committee for planning and building approved the town construction plan for green building in Raanana. This being a voluntary standard that brings no economic benefits to offset the required investments, the municipality decided to provide various incentives for the entrepreneurs in order to encourage green building in the city and make it economically worthwhile for the entrepreneurs.

Increasing energy efficiency – At all the city's educational and public institutions, systems have been installed to save energy in air-conditioning; street lighting and traffic lights have been replaced with LEDs; urban consumption of electricity declined by 7.4% in 2006, and the goal for 2007 was a further savings of 6% in urban consumption of electricity.

Procurement and tenders – In all the city's tenders for contracts with external vendors, environmental requirements have been added.

Tel Aviv – Yafo

Energy and Green Building – Increased Energy Efficiency

Advancement has begun for an initiative to install solar-collector systems on the roof of the municipality building, producing electricity for use on the two new top storeys which will be built onto the building.

Energy and Fuels

Bicycle Paths – 100 kilometers of bicycle paths have been paved in the context of a master plan for transportation in town.

Service stations – As part of the conditions for a business license, all the city's service stations changed over to selling 50 ppm diesel instead of 350 ppm diesel, and twenty service stations installed vapor recovery systems (Stage 1 & Stage 2). Fifty more service stations are expected to change over as well.

Open Areas and Greening of the City

In the past, hundreds of unused areas in Tel Aviv that are intended for future building had become nuisances to the environment and public health. As part of a project carried out between 2004 and 2006, the city planted temporary groves on 600 dunams (150 acres) of neglected open areas, including those under private ownership, investing 10 million shekels. Two million shekels more are invested each year in maintenance for these areas.

D. Driving and Administering the Process at the National Level, and Actual Implementation to Date



(1) Formulating and Preparing the Convention

The process of composing the Convention, including the achievement of agreement on its goals and on the character of their implementation, covered the entire year of 2007. The process took place under the aegis of a joint steering committee including representatives of the municipalities, of Forum 15, of the Local Sustainability Center, and of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and it included consideration of the Convention's various professional aspects and of its effect on the municipalities and on the pattern of their work, including the environmental, scientific, administrative, and legal aspects. The process involved in-depth discussion of weighty issues such as the depth and breadth of the commitments included in the Convention, whether the Convention should also include a commitment to reducing air pollutants, whether to set a compulsory goal for reducing air pollutants, whether to set a compulsory goal for GHG reduction and what the proper goal is, the size of the budgetary commitment required from the municipalities as they set about implementing the Convention, and more.

(2) Signing the Convention

On February 13, 2008, the signing event for the Convention was held at the headquarters of the Council for a Beautiful Israel in the middle of Park Hayarkon, the primary green lung of the city of Tel Aviv – Yafo. The event took the form of a conference and lecture program concerning the struggle against global warming and against air pollution in large cities, with the Convention's signing ceremony occurring at the conference's climax.

The Convention was attended by the President of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres; by the Minister for Environmental Protection (Gideon Ezra); by the Interior Minister (Meir Shitrit), by the Minister of Transport (Shaul Mofaz); by the chair of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (Adi Eldar); by the chair of the Knesset's Interior and Environmental Protection Committee (Ofir Pines); and by mayors, senior government officials, heads of Israeli environmental organizations, academicians, and more. The conference's guests of honor were Dr. Dieter Salomon, mayor of Freiburg, Germany; and Mr. Eduardo Croci, a deputy mayor of Milan, Italy. They lectured on the fascinating experience of their cities in promoting mechanisms for limiting and reducing air pollution and GHG emissions.

(3) Setting Up a National Steering and Control Task Force

In order to prepare the Convention and the outline of activities, and in order to implement the Convention and assist the municipalities in formulating and preparing the urban master plans and implementing them in practice, as well as to reduce and simplify bureaucratic procedures insofar as possible at the municipalities and in the government, Forum 15 established a **special professional task force for driving the process and for control over its progress** (hereafter, “**the Steering and Control Task Force**”). The Steering and Control Task Force consists of professional experts from Forum 15 and from the Israeli Local Sustainability Center, from the municipalities that signed the Convention, from various government ministries (the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Interior Ministry, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of National Infrastructures, the Ministry of Construction and Housing, the Ministry of Agriculture) and from environmental organizations. The chair of the Steering and Control Task Force is **Adv. Eitan Atia, Chair of Forum 15**. In addition, Forum 15 allocated a special budget for 2008 for the activities of the Steering and Control Task Force and it employs a full-time “project manager,” **Adv. Linor Sagi**, who coordinates the activity of the task force and administers the process as representative to the municipalities, to the government ministries, and to the environmental organizations. The entire process is also watched over professionally by the environmental advisor of Forum 15, **Ms. Idit Hod** and by the professional advisor of the Israeli Local Sustainability Center, **Ms. Michal Bitterman**.

Responsibilities of the Steering and Control Task Force:

- Advancing the Convention and the plans that arise from it, both at the broad national level and at the individual municipal level.
- Overall supervision of the process's progress, its administration, and its character.
- Assisting the municipalities in advancing the planning process and the implementation processes for the urban master plan.
- Networking of the information, the knowledge, and the accumulated experience among the municipalities.
- Coordinating of activities, regulation, and budgets among the Forum, the municipalities, and the government ministries.
- Constructing a pool of consultancy teams who can serve the municipalities as consultants and facilitators in advancing the preparation of the urban master plan for reducing air pollution and protecting the climate.
- Advancement and coordination of professional training for the members of the urban steering committee, for preparation of the urban master plan for reducing air pollution and protecting the climate.
- Assisting the municipalities in inter-urban coordination on a regional basis.
- Regularly reporting to and updating the plenum of Forum 15 mayors regarding the progress of the process.
- Performance and execution of the directives and decisions of the plenum of Forum 15 mayors regarding the process.

For the sake of efficient, practical functioning by the Steering and Control Task Force, and in order to effectively advance the goals detailed above, the Task Force operates through three subgroups, as detailed below:

- a. **The science group** – A professional team to accompany and monitor the process of performing the survey of emissions and drawing up predictions. It is established in light of the fact that the process of surveying urban emissions is the first of its kind in Israel. This team is composed of professionals and experts who know the lore of professional guidance and the scientific methodology for performing a survey of GSG emissions and air pollutants. The group’s members provide answers, updates, and solutions to questions, difficulties, and comments, which are referred to them from the professionals performing the survey at the municipality, regarding the scientific methodology according to which the municipalities perform the inventory survey. In addition, the members of the science group monitor the process of surveying and when it ends, they examine its results at the various municipalities. The members of the science group will also watch over the process of determining goals and predictions at the municipalities, and they will help in the acquisition of further, improved scientific capabilities for performing the tasks involved.
- b. **The coordination and control group** – This group will deal with the supervision and advancement of the process, with its coordination and control, and with horizontal matters that need to be advanced for the purpose of the Convention’s implementation, including –
- **Pooling and coordinating activities, responsibilities, and budgets with the government ministries and other external bodies** – Centralizing the matters that require applying to, cooperating with, or otherwise interacting with government ministries and other bodies for any purpose connected with responsibilities, budgets, receiving information, etc.
 - **Advancing projects at the regional/national level** – Advancing projects and ideas for cooperation that can or should be performed at the regional or national level, and that, in order to be carried out, require inter-urban or inter-regional cooperation, involvement of government ministries, external bodies, feasibility studies, removal of obstacles to the projects’ progress, etc.
 - **Inter-urban coordination on a regional basis** – Helping the municipalities, at the planning stage, to reach a level of cooperation on a regional basis, by passing information between neighboring cities, suggesting forms of cooperation and coordination, and monitoring the degree of cooperation actually practiced.
 - **Advancing legislative initiatives** – Suggestion and advancement of various legislative initiatives, both at the national level (bills) and at the municipal level (e.g. bylaws), which can aid in the proper implementation and execution of the Convention’s purposes and which aim to fill a need that is common to all the Convention’s member municipalities.
- c. **The public relations, training, and information group** – This group formulates suggestions for the regular holding of various environmental events in the Convention’s signatory municipalities in order to raise public consciousness of the process of implementing the Convention, to increase regional cooperation, and to emphasize various topics that the strategic programs deal with. In addition, the group will formulate a list of “spotlighted topics” about which the municipalities should be informed, should receive data, and should receive updates. The group will also promote professional training on various topics that will help the municipalities in the process of implementing the Convention.

A list of the members of the Forum 15 Steering and Control Committee for implementing the Convention is attached as Appendix B of this report.

(4) Activities of the Steering and Control Task Force

Detailed below are the activities of the Forum 15 Steering and Control Task Force, as performed since the signing of the Convention and up to this report's date of writing:

a. Writing an outline for the Convention's implementation

The outline, the main points of which appear, in part, in the second section of this report, was written in order to ensure the complete, effective, and consistent implementation of the Convention's purposes and the activities required in its framework. The activity pamphlet in which the outline appears was distributed among the urban steering committees and the rest of the relevant participants at the Convention's signatory municipalities, as well as to other offices participating in the process or having expressed interest in it along the way. The outline of activities is a compulsory guide that helps both the municipalities and the Steering and Control Committee that advises them to converse in consistent, agreed terms and to view all the municipalities in parity while following the progress of the process. The outline of activities, like all the other professional materials prepared by the Forum, is published on the Forum's website for the day-to-day use of the municipalities in the course of the process, and to maximize the process's transparency for the general public.

b. Cycles of meetings with mayors / city managers and municipal steering committees, to spur the process and follow up on its execution

In order to ensure that the Convention's signatory municipalities have internalized the principles of the process, know the implementation outline for the Convention, and are committed to the process both at the municipality's managerial level and at the professional and operational levels, a number of individual meetings were held at each municipality during the months since the Convention was signed. The meetings were held by the chair of the Steering and Control Task Force and his professional staff with the city managers and/or mayors, in cooperation with the offices within the municipality that are leading the process and with the urban steering committees. In the course of the meetings, the outline for the Convention's implementation, and its various implications, were presented to the municipal representatives. The municipalities update the Forum on their progress in implementing the Convention, and on the actions they have taken during the various stages, and if necessary they bring up various difficulties that they have had to confront and which might make implementing the Convention more difficult. In the course of the meetings, various solutions are suggested, along with continued assistance, in order to overcome the various obstacles.

The Forum is also a regular, permanent source of answers to questions, suggestions, problems and comments raised by the municipalities along the way, and it maintains continual, ongoing day-to-day contacts with the municipal coordinators who were appointed in each municipality to monitor and manage the process.

c. Forming a central pool of consultancy teams for preparing the urban plans

(1) As part of the preparations for implementing the Convention, Forum 15 undertook efforts for the establishment of a central pool of consultancy teams to accompany and assist the municipalities in the process of implementing and carrying out the Convention. Forum 15 published, through the Local Government Economic Services of the Local Authority Ltd. ¹(LGES), an RFP for establishment of a central pool of consultancy teams.

¹ The Local Government Economic Services of the Local Authority Ltd. (LGES) is a company owned by Israel's local authorities. LGES was founded to provide services to the local authorities in a way that would make the process of accomplishing the project more simple, efficient, and quick - all this by exploiting the advantages of size that arise from a broad common denominator among all Israel's local authorities, which provide similar services to their residents.

The teams were required to show expertise, knowledge, and experience in a number of relevant fields, including proven professional ability for the performance of urban emission surveys and the preparation of an urban master plan for reducing air pollution and protecting the climate as mandated within the planning section of the outline for implementing the Convention. The Forum 15 RFP committee LGES approved **eleven consulting teams** that met the strict requirements that the RFP presented. The approved consultancy teams include experts from among the nation's best in their fields, representing the range of disciplines required for the preparation of the urban master plan: experts from the fields of energy, town planning, transportation, air quality, economics, and law. All have formal educational credentials and rich, proven practical experience in the fields listed, with an emphasis on environmental and municipal aspects.

The municipalities contracted directly with the chosen consultancy teams. The proposals of the consultancy teams who had been approved by the RFP committee were posted in a confidential section (to protect the privacy of the team members' personal information) of the Forum's website, for use by the municipalities. Each proposal file, of each consultancy team, contained the following details: the proposed team's composition, contract details, work proposal, pricing proposal, and CVs of the team members.

The teams that the pool of consultancy teams includes are listed in Appendix C of this report.

- (2) In addition the Forum prepared, with LGES' assistance, a **proposal for a recommended contract** between a municipality and its chosen consultancy team. The contract includes emphases and special clauses that the Forum saw fit to include in the contract in order to best serve the municipalities and the Convention's goals. The preparation of the contract template was intended, among other purposes, also to shorten and accelerate the processes of contracting. Each municipality altered the contract as necessary, or added to it, according to the municipality's characteristics and in keeping with the legal advice it received.
- (3) When the eleven consultancy teams had been approved as part of the pool of consultancy teams that was established, all the team members were invited to an acquaintanceship and coordination meeting with the director of Forum 15 and his staff. The purpose of the meeting was to arrange personal acquaintance between the Forum 15 representatives and the consultancy teams, to show them the initiative and its stages (including updates on the progress of the Convention's implementation process), to provide a general presentation of the guide to performing an emissions inventory survey covering air pollutants and GHG and of the principles of the urban master plans expected under the initiative, to present the rules for contracting and for working with the municipalities, and to answer any questions from the team members. The meeting helped build direct ties between the team members and Forum 15, elicit professional feedback and assistance in constructing a more proper professional process, and coordinate expectations regarding everything connected with rules, expectations, and adherence to the outline for the Convention's implementation as delineated by the Forum.

d. Writing a professional guide to performing an urban emissions inventory survey

For the urban inventorying, mapping, and characterization of air pollutants and GHGs in the context of implementing the Convention's first stage, the Forum 15 Steering and Control Task Force prepared a professional guidebook with the purpose of outlining a consistent methodology by which the Convention's signatory municipalities would perform the inventory survey. **The guide consists of three chapters. Chapter 1** is a general chapter outlining the stages of work that the inventory survey requires.

This chapter was written by the Forum 15 environmental advisor, Ms. Idit Hod, and by the Convention's project manager, Adv. Linor Sagi. **Chapter 2** outlines the methodology for performing the GHG inventory, and it was written by Ms. Michal Bitterman and Mr. Eyal Biger of the Israeli Local Sustainability Center and the "Good Energy Initiative."² This chapter was written according to the methodology outlined by the ICLEI organization, as adjusted to the Israeli reality, and relying on experience accumulated in the city of Raanana, the first city in Israel to perform an inventory survey of GHG emissions. **Chapter 3** of the guide outlines the methodology for performing an inventory survey of air pollutants, and it was written by Mr. Yossi Bazis, who is responsible for air resources at the Environmental Quality Authority of the Tel Aviv – Yafo municipality, which was the first to perform an inventory survey of air pollutants within its boundaries and to formulate an urban master plan accordingly.

The guide presents a methodology that is the first of its kind in Israel. That being so, we consulted professionals at the municipalities, members of the consultancy teams from the pool of consultancy teams, and professionals in the government ministries, requesting feedback in order to examine the options for updating and improving the methodology. Updates to the guide were periodically distributed to the authorities. The first update to the guide was distributed at the start of November 2008, and the second in March 2009.

e. Formulating and presenting training workshops for the participating municipalities

- (1) Training the steering committees at the municipalities** – As part of the preliminary stage in the process of implementing the Convention, each of the urban steering committees received training aimed at providing it with instruments and knowledge for optimally and professionally managing the Convention's implementation process. The training included a workshop for basic, preliminary familiarization with the fundamental concepts related to the climatic crisis and urban air pollution. In the same framework, possibilities were weighed for integrating those concepts into the agenda of the authorities as part of the Convention's implementation. The training was provided by the Local Sustainability Center and by Forum 15, with the participation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The lessons followed a plan that was set in advance to meet the needs of the Convention's implementation, and before each session, they were adjusted to suit each authority's unique characteristics as well. The training was held at the facilities of the local authorities themselves. The Ministry of Environmental Protection funded 50% of the cost of training.
- (2) Seminar for enrichment and for sharing knowledge accumulated in Freiburg and Milan** – On February 14, 2008, the day after the Convention's signing ceremony, the town engineers, heads of environmental-quality departments, and heads of strategic planning departments in the Convention's signatory cities assembled for an enrichment seminar where the Mayor of Freiburg, Dr. Dieter Salomon, and Mr. Eduardo Croci, a deputy mayor of Milan, gave lectures to share with the municipalities those cities' rich experience in advancing programs for climate protection.
- (3) On May 28–29, 2008, a two-day workshop was held on the topic of **mapping, calculating, and reducing GHG emissions and urban air pollutants**.** The workshop was targeted for representatives of the urban steering committees, and it focused on how to achieve the first milestone from among the five milestones outlined in the Convention; that is, preparing a city inventory survey of the GHG emissions and air pollutants. The workshop was hosted by Forum 15, with partnership and guidance

² "The Good Energy Initiative" is a public initiative advancing in the dissemination of the issue of climate change and in distributing temporary solutions for reducing GHG in the categories of energy efficiency, energy production from renewable resources, etc.

from the Local Sustainability Center and the ICLEI organization. Two ICLEI representatives, Mr. Stefan Kuhn (Director of Urban Governance and Information Services for the organization) and Ms. Maryke van Staden, Coordinator of ICLEI's European CCP Campaign, came to Israel to train the municipalities' representatives in a variety of topics that the latter would be confronting in the course of the Convention's implementation. The following topics were discussed, among others: familiarization with the climate policies of the world's cities, acquiring mapping and administration capabilities for the city's air pollution inventory, familiarization with a variety of emission-reducing activities, and familiarization with the Convention's implementation outline and goals.

- (4) On August 13, 2008, a training workshop for the municipal inventory survey of emissions was held, presenting and **teaching in depth the professional guide for performing the municipal inventory survey of emissions**. Participating in the workshop were representatives of the Convention's signatory municipalities, and representatives of the consultancy teams that were included in Forum 15's central pool of consultancy teams. The workshop was led personally by the writers of the professional guide.

f. Pooling and coordinating activities, responsibilities, and budgets with the government ministries and other bodies

- (1) **Collecting data from non-municipal sources**– Forum 15 has been meeting with and contacting a variety of non-municipal bodies that possess information that is vital for the complete and proper performance of the municipal inventory survey of emissions. These bodies include the Israel Electric Corporation, the national bus companies, the Central Bureau of Statistics, the fuel companies, and more. Their cooperation in providing data to the municipalities is vital to the acquisition of a full, reliable picture of the sources of the city's present emissions. This is a first step toward creating round tables and continued cooperation between the Forum 15 Steering and Control Committee and the various bodies who have a critical influence on GHG emissions and air pollutants in the city and whose cooperation is required all along the way if significant results are to be attained.

It must be remarked that to date this data-collecting activity has achieved very little success. Some of the bodies which we turned to have refused to supply the information. Thus for example the energy and fuel companies active in the cities decline to supply data regarding the quantities of fuel sold in each city. They fear that such data, if revealed, would put them at a disadvantage against their competitors, and they claim that trade secrets are involved. That is despite the fact that we suggested they could supply the data collectively in order to avoid revealing with the share of fuel quantity per company. Presently the Israel Electric Corporation and the national bus companies are also withholding the requested data. In this connection, the excellent cooperation we received from the Central Bureau of Statistics and from the Metropolitan Mass Transit System (NTA) should be noted. They did everything in their power to provide the cities with information that was appropriately prepared, exact, and complete.

- (2) **Calls for Proposals** – Forum 15 is constantly in contact with various government ministries that from time to time issue calls for proposals, in order to help the local authorities fund various environmental projects such as writing strategic plans, handling waste and promoting recycling, performing energy-efficiency projects, and more.

In this connection, Forum 15 is helping both by routinely informing the municipalities of the existence of the calls for proposals and by showing the municipalities how to respond to those calls and to coordinate in advance with the relevant ministries in order to satisfy, with their municipal activities

according to the performance requirements under the outline for the Convention's implementation, the basic requirements for aid under the call for proposals.

In the course of 2008, the Ministry of Environmental Protection published a call for proposals to cover preparation of strategic plans, and it recognized the Convention's plan as a strategic plan for the purpose of receiving aid. Those of the Convention's signatory cities at the socio-economic ranking defined as entitling them to aid submitted applications and received a grant of 50,000 shekels. In addition, the Ministry of National Infrastructures published a call for proposals involving 100,000 shekels in aid for small energy-efficiency projects in the cities. Moreover, in connection with the distribution of funds from the dumping fee,³ it was agreed with the Ministry of Environmental Protection that if municipalities chose to expand the waste section of the Convention plan into a complete master plan for the treatment of waste, they could receive the aid money from the dumping fee.

(3) Participation in Professional Committees and Forums – As necessary, and in order to advance cooperation and coordination between the government ministries on the one hand and the municipalities and the Forum on the other, representatives of Forum 15 serve on various professional committees and in various forums held at the government ministries and elsewhere. Examples include a Forum member on the team for establishing a mechanism for recording GHG emissions, in the forum for advancing solutions for waste treatment headed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and on the committee headed by the Interior Ministry's Tel Aviv district regarding policy for the advancement of green building.

³ The landfill fee is a fee imposed under the Maintenance of Cleanliness Law for each ton of waste sent to be dumped. The fee was intended to reflect the true cost of disposing waste at a landfill and to enable a changeover to advanced methods of waste treatment, recycling, and energy production from waste. The funds from the fee are transferred to the Maintenance of Cleanliness Fund that is run by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and are managed as a separate account and intended to serve for the development, establishment, and improved efficiency of advanced waste-treatment methods. In this way, the money received from the landfill fee is returned to the local authorities for establishing infrastructures of recycling and recovery.

E. Looking Forward

We hope that around September 2009, most of the municipalities that signed the Convention will finish their urban emission inventories, which are expected to take some four to six months.

To our regret, as mentioned earlier, regarding a number of subtopics, we have encountered various problems in obtaining the data and information required for the inventory's complete execution. The absence of information on certain topics could interfere with the prompt completion of the planning phase. Regarding these topics, the Forum has instructed the municipalities to try not to be hobbled, but to continue with the planning phase for all the matters regarding which the inventory survey is complete. In parallel, the Forum and the municipalities will continue their efforts to locate the information and data regarding all the problematic subtopics, or else to find techniques and methodological systems to compensate for the lack of data.

It should be noted that by the original timelines set in the outline for the Convention's implementation, at some of the municipalities the process is running half a year late. This delay arose from a number of causes: (a) Insufficiently realistic estimation of time by the Forum 15 Steering and Control Task Force; (b) Lengthening of the contracting process between the municipalities and the consultancy teams, a process that by its nature involves intra-urban bureaucratic and legal procedures are not always subject to estimation in advance; (c) The 2008 elections to Israel's local authorities, and particularly the legal sensitivity of the period approaching the elections (in some of the municipalities, all the new contracting processes were halted by order of the municipal counsel); (d) As a further delaying factor, influencing the Convention's southern signatory cities in particular – Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Beer Sheva –the troublesome security situation, which reached its peak with Operation Cast Lead. It naturally upset the daily routine and the ongoing work in those cities. However, most of the municipalities are already engaged in performing the municipal inventory survey of emissions, having contracted with professional consultancy teams that are on hand as the inventory survey is performed.

The Steering and Control Task Force continues closely in touch with the process as the municipalities embark upon it. It is providing the municipalities with maximum information and with the necessary professional instruments for optimal performance of the planning stage.

The following activities are among those planned for 2009:

1. Continuing the updating and improvement of the inventory survey methodology for urban emissions, in accordance with feedback we receive from the municipalities, in order to improve the performance of the inventory survey in future years.
2. Learning lessons and formulating recommendations for organizational functioning at the municipalities, to aid in the preparation of future inventory survey.
3. Examining and approving the municipal inventory surveys that were conducted at the municipalities, in order to move into the next stage.
4. Developing methodological instruments and recommendations for topics, ideas, and projects as input to the stages of setting sectoral goals and writing plans.
5. Holding workshops for training, and further study days, on various topics to be included in the urban master plans.

6. Continuing the effort to collect the data necessary for performing the inventory survey in a centralized fashion, as well as strengthening the cooperation and ongoing ties with corporations and other non-municipal bodies.
7. Giving targeted assistance to municipalities that require it.
8. Making a special effort to assist municipalities in coordinating their plans with neighboring municipalities.
9. Stressing the networking of information and knowledge among the municipalities.
10. Tightening the ties with the international ICLEI organization.
11. Holding informational meetings among the residents of the cities in order to raise their consciousness regarding the signing of the Convention and regarding their ability to influence and facilitate the attainment of the Convention's goals in their city.
12. Formulating, together with the Local Government Economic Services of the Local Authority Ltd., standard RFPs for the advancement of various projects that must be carried out for the sake of attaining the Convention's goals – for example, increasing energy efficiency, installing photovoltaic cells, etc.

The Forum 15 Steering and Control Task Force shall continue to work energetically in advancing the Convention and its practical implementation, and shall continue to update the appropriate bodies and the general public regarding the progress of the Convention's implementation process, transparently and with full disclosure.

For further information and details, contact Atty. Linor Sagi, project manager, at linor@forum15.org.il or at 972-3-6844236.

APPENDIXES

Appendix A



The Convention of The Forum 15 for reducing air pollution and for climate protection

“Be mindful that you do not ruin and devastate my world, for if you ruin it, there is no one to repair it after you”

(Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13 a)

Introduction

Modern living in recent decades has led to a worrying increase in pollution levels and a sharp rise in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The implications for humanity and for the planet as a whole are dire. A direct relationship exists between levels of air pollution and diseases such as cancer and lung diseases. In addition, air pollution and GHG is causing irreversible damage to ecological systems and bringing about global climate change, as witnessed in extreme weather conditions and in an increasing number of “natural disasters” that are resulting in environmental, economic and social problems on a global scale.

Israeli cities are already beginning to feel the price of environmental damage, but we are yet to experience the full wrath of the ramifications from a rise in sea levels, northward expansion of the desert belt, and emergence of extreme precipitation regimes.

A special report published by the UN in 2007 states that humanity is responsible for global warming and that humanity has the ability to stop a deteriorating situation. Hundreds of scientists who drew up the report estimate that there is a narrow window of opportunity to turn the situation around; the technology required is already at our disposal; however, economic, technological and human resources need to be channeled to this matter, in order to utilize the short time that we, leadership and public, have, to stop the situation deteriorating.

The cities that we lead can spearhead a change in these trends, and effectively alter the situation within a very short time. To this end, courageous decisions must be taken to leverage our public influence and our ability to act effectively within the boundaries of our cities into a resolute force that can help to shape the issues on the national agenda.

A. Objectives and targets

As part of global efforts to address this reality, and out of a sense of responsibility towards the cities' residents, towards the entire population of Israel, towards our neighbors and towards the inhabitants of the planet, we hereby sign the convention and will act to achieve the following objectives:

- To safeguard the health and quality of life of residents in the cities that we lead.
- To join in the efforts of cities throughout the world in climate protection.

- To protect the environment, natural resources, ecological systems and biodiversity, for the sake of this generation and of generations to come, and to take their needs into account.

To achieve these objectives, we undertake:

A. In each city that we lead, to promote an urban master plan for climate protection and air pollution reduction, that includes the following five milestones:

- Defining a basic inventory and forecast of the main sources of air pollution and GHG emissions in the city.
- Defining targets for the reduction of air pollution and GHG emissions.
- Developing and adopting a short to long term Local Action Plan to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions.
- Implementing the Local Action Plan and all the measures presented therein.
- Monitoring and controlling the levels of air pollution and GHG emissions, and reporting regularly on the actions and measures taken in the framework of the Local Action Plan.

B. To join the CCP (Cities for Climate Protection) initiative led by the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and to adopt targets to reduce air pollution and protect the earth's climate in the spirit of the targets that other large cities around the world have set themselves, including a reduction of no less than 20% in GHG emissions by the year 2020.

C. To act to achieve preliminary results on the five milestones in the plan within three years of signing the convention.

Follow-up and Control

To ensure full and effective implementation of the convention and the urban plans based on it, we are establishing a task force in the framework of The Forum 15, to promote the efforts of the cities in this direction, and to control and follow up their results. The task force will act to advance information networking, to pool resources and to coordinate between the municipalities, Government Ministries, and other relevant bodies.

**We call on other local authorities to join our initiative by signing this pact.
We, the undersigned**

Chairman, Forum15
& Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo

Mayor of Jerusalem

Mayor of Haifa

Mayor of Rishon Lezion

Mayor of Ashdod

Mayor of Beer Sheva

Mayor of Netanya

Mayor of Holon

Mayor of Petach Tikva

Mayor of Ramat-Gan

Mayor of Bat Yam

Mayor of Rehovot

Mayor of Herzliya

Mayor of Ashkelon

Mayor of Hadera

Mayor of Kfar-Saba

Mayor of Raanana

Mayor of Givatayim

General Director, Forum15



Appendix B

National Steering and Control Task Force for Implementing the Forum 15 Convention

Organization	Name	Position	Role in the Steering and Control Task Force	Telephone	E-mail
Forum 15					
	Adv. Eitan Atia	CEO	Chair of the Task Force	03-6844236	eitan@forum15.org.il
	Adv. Linor Sagi	Project manager	Task Force Secretary	03-6844236 050-5243874	linor@forum15.org.il
	Idit Hod	Environmental consultant	Environmental Consultant to the Task Force	04-6390975	idithod@barak-online.net
	Ran Aharon	Spokesperson	PR and Information Group	03-6874055	rana@unik.co.il
Union of Local Authorities					
	Milcah Carmel	Environmental consultant	Coordination and Control Group	04-6084939	carmelsviva@gmail.com
	Soni Bennett	Head of training department	PR and Information Group	03-6844250	soni.b@ulai.org.il
Local Government Economic Services					
	Ro'i Cohen	Economic initiatives	Coordination and Control Group	03-6235296	roic@mashcal.co.il
Government Ministries					
Ministry of Construction and Housing	Karlos Drinberg	Chief architect	Coordination and Control Group	02-5847212	karlosd@moch.gov.il
Ministry of National Infrastructures	David Rudich	Senior coordinator for energy conservation	Coordination and Control Group	02-5316023	drudich@mimi.gov.il
Ministry of Agriculture	Israel Galon	Head of plant engineering, gardening, and landscape	Coordination and Control Group	03-9485315	isgalon@shaham.moag.gov.il
Ministry of Transport	Zeev Shadmi	Chief Scientist's unit	Coordination and Control Group	02-6663283	shadmiz@mot.gov.il
Interior Ministry	Gila Oron	Tel Aviv district appointee	Coordination and Control Group	03-7632581	galka@moin.gov.il
Ministry of Environmental Protection	Baruch Weber	Head of Tel Aviv district	Coordination and Control Group	03-7634403/4	baruchw@sviva.gov.il
Ministry of Environmental Protection	Tzachi Asa	Air quality coordinator – Tel Aviv district	Science Group	03-7634441	tzachi@sviva.gov.il
Ministry of Environmental Protection	Alex Kaplan	Head of environmental projects and units	PR and Information Group	02-6553757	alexk@sviva.gov.il

Organization	Name	Position	Role in the Steering and Control Task Force	Telephone	E-mail
Municipal project managers for implementing the Convention					
Municipality of Givatayim	Dr. Adi Kapliuk	Head of financial administration	Coordination and Control Group	03-5722316	adik@givatayim.muni.il
Municipality of Holon	Shlomo Gispin	Head of business licensing and environmental quality		03-5027409	shlomog@holon.muni.il
Municipality of Netanya	Michael Barel	Head of environmental quality		09-8603232	Mich-b@netanya.co.il
Municipality of Netanya	Kobby Brada	Spokesperson	PR and Information Group	09-8603306	kobbyb@netanya.muni.il
Municipality of Netanya	Adv. Malka Nusil	Public representative	Coordination and Control Group	09-88524250	golshon@zahav.net.il
Municipality of Ashkelon	Shlomo Ovadia	CEO of union of towns – Ashkelon		08-6766001/2	shlomo@e-a.org.il
Municipality of Ashkelon	Dr. Alan Marcus	Head of strategic planning		08-6792396	alan_m@ashkelon.muni.il
Municipality of Rishon Lezion	Zvi Milstein	Head of Green City authority		03-9682561	zvim@rishonlezion.muni.il
Municipality of Kfar Saba	Meir Elkayam	Head of environmental quality		09-7649190	Meir_elk@ksaba.co.il
Municipality of Herzliya	Uri Rozin	Head of environmental quality	Coordination and Control Group	09-9548640	urir@herzliya.muni.il
Municipality of Herzliya	Dorit Basman-Kobel	Spokesperson	PR and Information Group	09-9591508	dorit@hertzliya.muni.il
Municipality of Ramat Gan	Sorin Salomon	Industries head, regional unit for environmental quality	Coordination and Control Group	03-6726409 (3)	sorin@ramat-gan.muni.il
Municipality of Ramat Gan	Helit Kapah-Shai	Spokesperson	PR and Information Group	03-6753573	helit@ramat-gan.muni.il
Municipality of Bat Yam	Guri Nadler	Strategic planning		03-5556050	gurir@bat-yam.muni.il
Municipality of Haifa	Ariel Wetterman	City engineer		04-8356121	arielw@haifa.muni.il
Municipality of Haifa	Orna Harel-Peleg	Head of long-range planning		04-8356121	ornah@haifa.muni.il
Municipality of Ashdod	David Hartom	Deputy city manager		08-8545366	artom@ashdod.muni.il
Municipality of Rehovot	Adv. Tamir Feinstein	City manager		08-9392231	tamir@rehovot.muni.il
Municipality of Hadera	Yeruham Lakritz	CEO of the union of towns for environmental quality – Hadera	Science Group	04-6123415	yeruham@igudhadera.co.il
Municipality of Jerusalem	Nimrod Levi	Head of dangerous substances and air resources	Science Group	02-6296049	lvnimrod@jerusalem.muni.il

Organization	Name	Position	Role in the Steering and Control Task Force	Telephone	E-mail
Municipality of Tel Aviv – Yafo	Moshe Blasenheim	Head of environmental quality	Coordination and Control Group	03-7253800	Blas_m@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il
Municipality of Tel Aviv – Yafo	Yossef Bazis	Air quality coordinator	Science Group	03-7253808	Bazis_y@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il
Municipality of Beer Sheva	Yitzhak Hellman	Head of environmental quality	Coordination and Control Group	08-6463809	itzika@br7.org.il
Municipality of Petach Tikva	Ehud Stein	Head of environmental quality	Coordination and Control Group	03-9052916	ehuds@ptikva.org.il
Municipality of Petach Tikva	Hezi Hakak	Spokesperson	PR and Information Group	03-9052555	hezih@ptikva.org.il
Municipality of Raanana	Doron Bechar	Head of city contact desk		09-7622100	doronb@raanana.muni.il
Municipality of Raanana	Ayelet Gradman	Spokesperson	PR and Information Group	09-7610240	ayeletg@raanana.muni.il
Union of towns – Haifa	Ella Berlin	Union of towns – Haifa	Science Group	04-8428203	ellab@envihaifa.org.il
Union of towns – Haifa	Ester Star	Deputy CEO	Coordination and Control Group	04-8428201	estis@envihaifa.org.il
Union of towns – Ashdod & Yavneh district	Doron Lahav	Union VP	Science Group	08-8519509 054-4468279	Doron-l@envashy.org.il
Environmental union – Raanana / Kfar Saba	Oren Tavori		Science Group		orenta@raanana.muni.il
Environmental organizations					
Heschel	Orli Ronen	VP	Coordination and Control Group	03-5608788	orli@heschel.org.il
Heschel	Michal Bitterman	An author of the guidebook	Science Group	054-4604582	michal@goodenergy.org.il
Israel Union for Environmental Defense	Gilad Ostrovsky	Science department	PR and Information Group	03-5669939 (121)	gilado@iuel.org.il
Life and Environment	Naor Yerushalmi	VP	PR and Information Group	03-5602256	naor@sviva.net
Academics					
Shmuel Neaman Institute and University of Haifa	Dr. Ofira Ayalon	Head of environmental quality at the Neaman Institute	PR and Information Group	052-2350820	egofira@tx.technion.ac.il
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability					
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat	Maryke van Staden	Coordinator of ICLEI's European CCP Campaign			ccp-europe@iclei.org

Appendix C

Central Pool of Consultancy Teams *

Name of Team Leader	Names of Team Members	Role in Team
Iris Efrat		
	Iris Efrat	Team leader & town planning
	Dr. Yehoshua Goldschmidt	Air quality
	Dr. Haim Aviram	Transportation
	Dr. Shlomo Bechor	Transportation
	Noa Gecht	Town planning
	Ofer Ben Dov	Energy
	Lior Shmueli	Economist and legal expert
Barak Katz		
	Barak Katz	Team leader & town planning
	Dr. Henryk Meloch	Air quality
	Adv. Lior Shmueli	Economist and legal expert
	Ofer Keren	Energy
	Ami Blum	Transportation
	Dov Basel	Administration and control
	Smadar Meir	Team advisor
	Sharon Neuman	Team advisor
Gideon Segal, Architect		
	Gideon Segal, Architect	Team leader & town planning
	Karin Tanentzap	Air quality
	Ari Goldfarb	Air quality
	Eng. Avraham Zabadi	Energy
	Noga Lev Zion Nadan	Economist
	Eng. Ilan Klieger	Transportation
	Adv. Hemi Avneri	Legal expert
Meir Buchman, Architect		
	Meir Buchman, Architect	Team leader
	Uri Tochler, Architect	Deputy team leader & town planning
	Prof. Eran Feitelsohn	Environmental planner
	Dr. Oded Potchter Dr. Limor Bar-Sha'ashua Eitan Mazeh	Air quality
	Dr. David Perlmutter	Climate and environment
	Dr. Binyamin Frischer Gideon Hashimshoni Dr. Karl Martens	Transportation
	Dr. Moshe Dan Hirsch Dr. Moshe Tshuva Uri Doman	Energy, civil engineering, and environmental engineering
	Yisrael Kurtz Dr. Rina Dagani	Economists
	Dr. Yona Ginzburg	Urban sociology and public involvement
	Prof. Carol Rafael	Environmental health
	Batya Keshet, Architect Dalia Boltenski, Architect	Landscape planning
	Adv. Zohari Moshe Adv. Yuval Kviatek Adv. Ofra Friedman	Legal experts
	Prof. Avi Dagani	Think tank

Name of Team Leader	Names of Team Members	Role in Team
Dr. Moshe Hirsch		
	Dr. Moshe Hirsch	Team leader & transportation
	Prof. Ariel Cohen	Energy & air quality
	Gil Peled, Architect	Town planning & green building
	Ehud Hason	Economist
	Adv. Eitan Parnas	Legal expert
	Epstein, Rosenblum, Maoz ERM, law office	Scientific thinking, GIS, and models
Moshe Cohen		
	Moshe Cohen	Team leader
	Dr. Ron Leshem	Air quality
	Amir Kuliker	Town planning
	Ofer Kuliker	Town planning
	Randy Epstein	Town planning
	Avi Sperber	Transportation
	Dr. Ofer Alon	Energy
	Zeev Barkai	Economist
	Adv. Avi Forten	Legal expert
Matityahu Kuns, Architect		
	Matityahu Kuns, Architect	Team leader
	Shmulik Lipshin	Economist and team coordinator
	Gila Schneider	Town planning and environmental administration
	Eran Reisfeld	Transportation
	Dr. Bernanda Flickstein	Air quality
	Dr. Ofer Alon	Energy
	Adv. Ron Lappin	Legal expert
	Eng. Yossi Kalick	Professional coordination & environmental engineering
	Jay Kaplan	Team advisor
	Jack Tobol	Team advisor
	Shai Avivi	PR and public involvement
	Dan Shirai	PR and public involvement
	Karni Govrin Segal	PR and public involvement
Claudio Milul, Architect		
	Claudio Milul, Architect	Team leader
	Zvika Koren	Town planning and strategic planning
	Alex Gamarnik	Project leader
	Prov. Uri Marinov	Air quality and environmental quality
	Haim Aviram	Transportation
	Yisrael Koretz	Economist
	Yisrael Gavish	Economist
	Adv. Yaakov Cohen	Legal expert
	Yosef Noverski	Energy
Kalman Dines		
	Kalman Dines	Team leader
	Shira Levi-Binyamini	Team coordination and social consulting
	Dr. David Brudai	Air quality

Name of Team Leader	Names of Team Members	Role in Team
	Dina Alon Reshef	Transportation
	Ram Eisenberg	Town planning
	Dr. Amit Mor	Energy
	Adv. Ofer Zilkad	Legal expert
	Noga Levzion–Nadan	Economist
Dr. Ronit Davidovich Marton		
	Dr. Ronit Davidovich Marton	Team leader & town planning
	Aviad Sar Shalon	Environmental planning and open areas
	Gadi Rosenthal	Economist
	Tali Albert	Air quality
	Eldad Sharoni	Air quality
	Gal Gruener	Transportation
	Yisrael Rashednik	Transportation
	Eli Asif	Transportation
	Adv. Yohanan Wiener	Legal expert
	Adv. Sharon Montefiore Gilan	Environmental and municipal law
	Adv. Tali Inbar	Environmental and municipal law
	Dr. Amit Mor	Energy
	Shimon Sarousi	Energy
	Tami Hirsch, Architect	Green building
Rafael Lehrman, Architect		
	Rafael Lehrman, Architect	Team leader & town planning
	Dr. Yehuda Goldschmidt	Air quality
	Avi Goldschmidt	Air quality
	Eng. Dan Fuchs	Transportation
	Eng. Leon Efrimov	Energy
	Ezra Sadan	Economist
	Adv. Yitzhak Meron	Legal expert

* The table is arranged alphabetically (in Hebrew) by team leader name.

Forum 15 brings together the self-government cities of Israel, which receive no balancing grants or development grants from the government and are managed as closed economies on the basis of their independent financial resources.

The following cities are members of the forum: Ashdod, Beer Sheva, Givatayim, Herzliya, Hadera, Holon, Haifa, Kfar Saba, Netanya, Petach Tikva, Rishon Lezion, Rehovot, Ramat Gan, Raanana, and Tel Aviv – Yafo.

The cities of the forum include nearly 3 million residents (approximately 40% of Israel's population) and many further surrounding populations make daily use of the municipal and metropolitan services that the cities of the Forum provide. The populations served in practice by the cities of the forum are estimated at more than 80% of the State of Israel's population total.

The long list of nationally important organizations and public institutions active in the Forum's member cities includes centers of education, research, and development; leading universities, theaters, and national cultural centers; industrial and hi-tech zones, large medical centers, and more. They are in operation thanks to, among other things, the advancement, assistance, and support they receive from the municipalities.

The magnitude of the populations served by the Forum's cities, together with the cities' central role in the national arena, puts the cities of Forum 15 at the forefront against the national challenges of the State of Israel, which include the economy, employment, research and development, health, education, culture, transportation, environmental quality, infrastructure, urban planning, welfare and the disadvantaged, immigrant absorption, and more.

By meeting those difficulties and challenges, and despite the fact these fifteen cities receive no financial aid from the government, the independent cities have become an island of stability and success in the expanse of local public activity.

Forum 15 was founded ten years ago by Mayor Ron Huldai of Tel Aviv – Yafo and then-mayor Amram Mitzna of Haifa. Forum 15 is based at the Union of Local Authorities in Israel.

Forum 15 salutes the Jerusalem, Bat-Yam, and Ashkelon municipalities, which have joined the convention and the climate initiative, and calls upon further municipalities to join this important process.