EcoDistricts

Webinar #1: Access, mobility and public space – key aspects of EcoDistricts

August, 2018
What is in this session?

- What are EcoDistricts?
- Why EcoDistricts?
- Major sectors involved in EcoDistricts.
- Examples of EcoDistrict projects
- Access, mobility and public space: key elements in the design of EcoDistricts – Expert talks.
What are EcoDistricts?

- EcoDistricts designate “Urban development aiming to integrate the objectives of sustainable development and focusing on energy, the environment and social life” (Larousse 2014).

- EcoDistricts are all about “connecting the needs of the people with how places are conceived by improving the quality of environment”.

- EcoDistricts are parts of a city that undergo transformation.

- EcoDistricts involve a holistic approach in addressing climate change and sustainability.

- EcoDistricts encourage social equity while addressing sustainability issues.
Why do we need EcoDistricts?

The urban challenge

- Surface: 2%
- Population: 55%
- GDP: 80%
- Energy consumption: 75%
- GHG emissions: 80%
Why do we need EcoDistricts?
One piece of the puzzle

• Changing an entire city means changing each part of the city
• Only a collective action throughout the city can change a city
• Collective actions need a coordinate approach from all sectors
• EcoDistricts bring a systematic approach that combines technical and social strategies to address sustainability
• EcoDistricts are “an important scale to accelerate sustainability — small enough to innovate quickly and big enough to have a meaningful impact”. (EDF 2013)
The major sectors included in EcoDistricts

**Access + Mobility**
- Access
- Sustainable mobility
- Public space

**Energy**
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy

**Resource management**
- Ecosystems
- Water
- Waste
Major benefits of EcoDistricts

**Social**
- Social cohesion
- Community engagement
- Increased public health
- Safer streets

**Economic**
- Revitalised neighbourhoods
- Local innovation & job creation
- Saved money in services
- Public and private investment

**Environmental**
- Improved air quality
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Reduced waste
- Enhanced resilience
Major risks of EcoDistricts

- Gentrification and displacement (households and businesses)
- Lack of community participation
- Lack of political will / support from the municipality
- Lack of resources
- Conflict of interests
Urban Pathways

Access & Mobility Examples

Placemaking
Biking and bike lanes
Car sharing
Walkability
Urban Pathways

Energy Examples

- Smart grids
- LED lamps
- Solar roof surfaces
- EE in buildings

Implementing the New Urban Agenda
Resources Examples

- Zero waste programs
- Rainwater harvesting
- Urban agriculture
- Green infrastructure
- District composting
References

- Smart Sustainable Districts (SSD). (n.d.). Climate-KIC.
- Southwest EcoDistrict Case Study. (2017). EcoDistricts.
• Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) – María Rosa Muñoz B.

• Street Design and Place Making – Diego Hurtado

• Cycling infrastructure and the last mile – Galo Cárdenas

• Stakeholder engagement in EcoDistricts – Marcela Guerrero