

## Electrifying insight, innovation and interaction at Local Renewables Freiburg 2010

*Freiburg, Germany October 15 2010* - E-mobility is part of, but not the sole solution to solving transport problems in cities. This was the main conclusion drawn by international experts from local governments, business and research gathered at the Local Renewables Freiburg 2010 Conference. The green city of Freiburg Germany, was the setting for the event which was one of this year's most topical conferences. Organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the conference ran from 14-15 October 2010 and focused on the role of renewables in the future of sustainable urban mobility.

Much of the discussion was around the role of the e-car, with Eicke Weber from the Fraunhofer Institute summarising the fascinating range of technological innovations around e-cars by saying, 'the race is on'. However, it was clear that the race is a long way from over, with many of the experts from the industry and analysts like Lew Fulton from the IEA Paris agreeing that e-cars will need to be accompanied by new solutions in fuel cell technology and sustainable biofuels, especially when buses and transport vehicles come into play.

With e-vehicles the hot topic, local was another of the buzz words of the event, as speakers from ICLEI member cities such as Bremen Germany, and Stockholm Sweden, showing that technology and new fuels have to be locally embedded into an overall integrated management strategy for carbon responsible urban mobility and transport. Michael Glotz-Richter, Senior Mobility Manager for the city of Bremen, said he believes "electric mobility is not solving our transport and city development problems". For cities, to facilitate sustainable urban development and a high quality of life of citizens, the integration of sustainable land avoidance strategies, priorities for non-motorised and public transport, support for carsharing solutions and high quality and real-time mobility information is key.

This year's event was the third instalment in the Local Renewables Conference series and featured a special collaboration with the International Congress Solar Summits, which was also held at the Freiburg Konzerthaus. The conference had a truly international flavour and drew participants from as far afield as Bolivia, South Korea and Iran to Freiburg – one of Europe's hot spots for Solar Energy and a model-city when it comes to providing citizens with sustainable transportation. Many delegates also availed of the complimentary study tours organised by the City of Freiburg, taking in Freiburg's famous solar-powered Vauban district, as well as a trip to Mobile, Freiburg's centre for eco-mobility, a tour of the city's main traffic junctions, visits to Freiburg's historic city centre, as well as to the Rieselfeld ecological housing project.

**Word count: 430**

**Background:**

**ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations. ICLEI currently has 1,100 members worldwide and 200 in Europe.

Founded in 1990, ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level.

The **City of Freiburg** has been the host city of the ICLEI European Secretariat since 1992, and is well known internationally

for its environmental approach and extensive use of solar energy and other renewable sources. The city is also globally recognised as a result of its urban transport and mobility policy. From early on Freiburg focused on environmental sustainability, photovoltaics and various biotechnologies, which has given the city decisive advantages as a business location in an international competitive environment.

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