



UN HABITAT

UNITED NATIONS ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

THE STATE OF ASIAN CITIES 2010/11

UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme

UCLG ASPAC
United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific

CASE STUDIES

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

BANGKOK'S ACTION PLAN

With its Action Plan on Global Warming Mitigation, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15 per cent between 2007 and 2012.

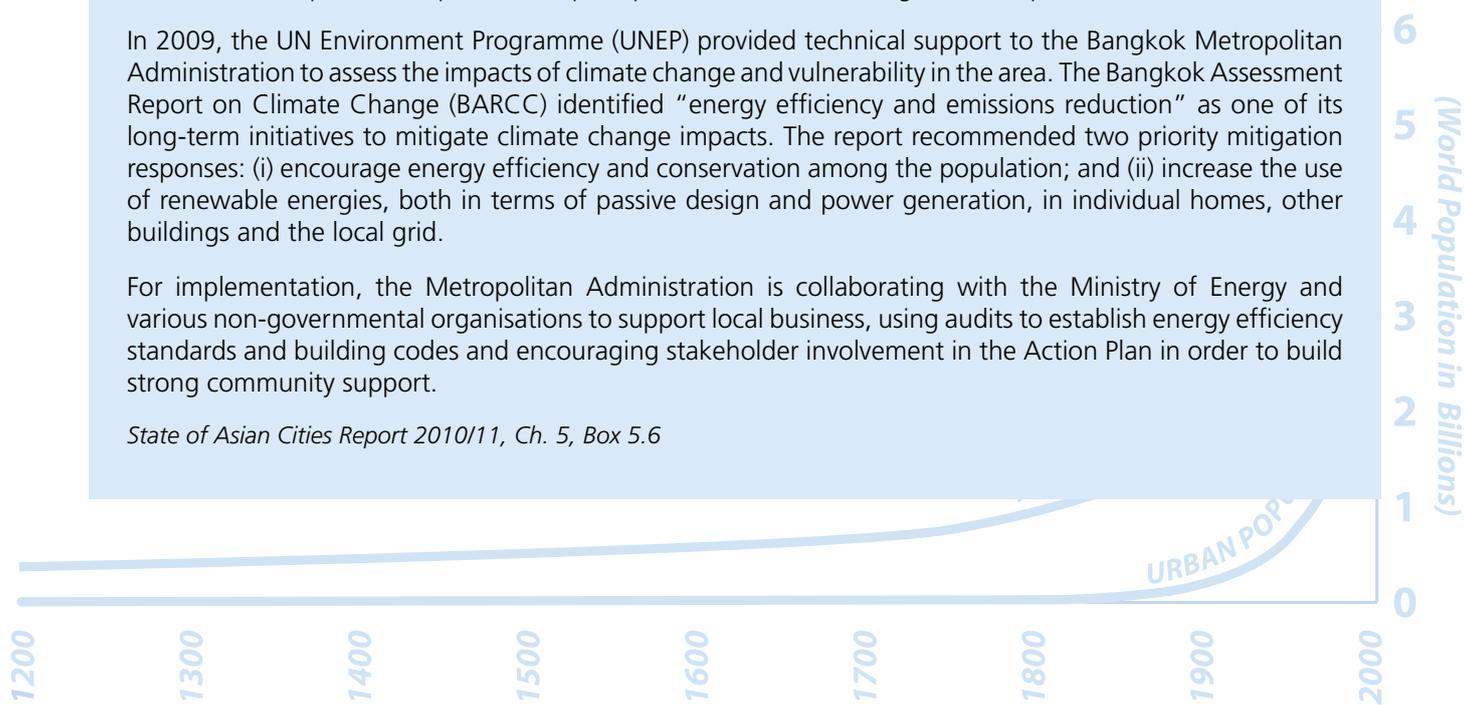
In the transportation sector, the Metropolitan Administration proposed expanding Bangkok's rapid transit system with additional bus routes to outlying areas, a more affordable option rail-based transit. The Metropolitan Administration also encourages walking and non-motorized transport modes, while at the same time planning increased numbers of buses to act as 'feeders' to the rapid transit systems in the Thai capital. Residents are also encouraged to turn off vehicles while parked.

Electricity generation in Bangkok produces just under 15 million tons of greenhouse gases per year. In a bid to reduce these, the Metropolitan Administration has launched a campaign to encourage people to shift from ordinary to compact fluorescent electric bulbs. In May 2007, the city also asked all residents to turn off all electric lights for 15 minutes every day to help reduce pollution. On top of this and as an integral part of the Action Plan, the BMA urged the Bangkok population to adopt 'recover, re-use and recycle' routines in order to reduce solid waste, and to favour reusable cloth bags over plastic bags. Instead of relying mainly on landfills and open dumps, the Metropolitan Administration proposed capturing methane gas from waste and to use it as an energy source. Finally, the Administration has also promoted the planting of three million trees and the expansion of parks and open spaces in the whole Bangkok metropolis.

In 2009, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) provided technical support to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to assess the impacts of climate change and vulnerability in the area. The Bangkok Assessment Report on Climate Change (BARCC) identified "energy efficiency and emissions reduction" as one of its long-term initiatives to mitigate climate change impacts. The report recommended two priority mitigation responses: (i) encourage energy efficiency and conservation among the population; and (ii) increase the use of renewable energies, both in terms of passive design and power generation, in individual homes, other buildings and the local grid.

For implementation, the Metropolitan Administration is collaborating with the Ministry of Energy and various non-governmental organisations to support local business, using audits to establish energy efficiency standards and building codes and encouraging stakeholder involvement in the Action Plan in order to build strong community support.

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This first-ever State of Asian Cities Report 2010/11 is a collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Cities and Local Governments – Asia-Pacific Regional Section (UCLG-ASPAC)

