

In July, Green Building Council Georgia conducted training on Building Energy Labeling by DISPLAY. The training included how to use the online tool designed and maintained by Energy Cities. Originally it was intended for use by municipalities – Covenant of Mayors’ signatories--but now it has become a management instrument for other interested parties as well, including NGOs, ministries, and the private sector. Currently DISPLAY is used by more than 400 municipalities in 27 countries. It contributes to the implementation of European Building Performance Directives that will become mandatory for Georgia after Georgian legislation is harmonized with European law, as per a recently signed Association Agreement. In addition to the EU directive, DISPLAY includes water efficiency and other recommendations that are not required, and was chosen by the EC-LEDS program from among other systems of building labeling because of its wide coverage and its ease of use. It is accessible from any work station and has been adapted to Georgian climate data and language.

In August, GBC-Ge conducted a series of information meetings on DISPLAY for cities that are signatories to Covenant of Mayors and for those who are preparing Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP). During the meetings, Green Building Council Georgia and Municipal representatives prepared DISPLAY labeling on the basis of information collected in advance for the municipal buildings suggested by the Municipalities. During August, GBC-Ge visited five municipalities and labeled a total of 17 municipal buildings. Most labeled buildings (12) were labeled in Kutaisi, and included the Kutaisi Palace of Sport, Kutaisi Public School #11, Kutaisi City Hall, Center of Folk Song and Dance, Territorial Unit of the Kutaisi Auto Factory, Medical Clinic LJ and four buildings of the Akaki Tsereteli State University.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In August an EC-LEDS Information Session for People with Disabilities (PWD) took place at the Batumi Civic Engagement Centre. People with disabilities participated from the NGOs Changes for Equal Rights and the Georgian Union for the Blind. The event aimed to empower PWDs through education on energy efficiency and provide them with equal opportunities to enjoy the benefits of energy-efficient behavior. Following the event, participants were given the EC-LEDS promotional materials including flyers in Braille print for blind people.

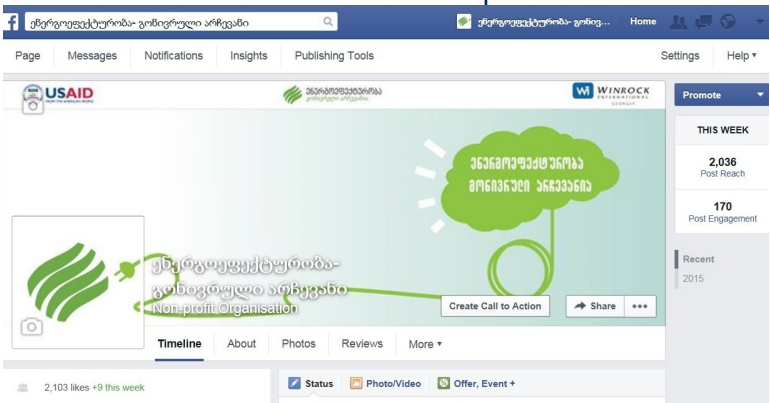
Previously the EC-LEDS team held several meetings with members of the Telavi Young PWD Integration Center, Women’s Association, People with Disabilities (PWD) Children’s-Parents’ Association, and the NGO Tanadgoma/Telavi. All participants expressed their willingness to support the EC-LEDS outreach campaign by distributing information, arranging meetings and becoming involved in these activities.



(from left) Participants of the event, Professor Arabidze, EC-LEDS Acting COP Inga Pkhaladze and Winrock Georgia staff at Batumi Civic Engagement Center.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS A SMART CHOICE

EC-LEDS launched its Facebook Page. Follow us on: www.facebook.com/energopeqturoba



Quarterly Newsletter
Summer 2015

Enhancing Capacity For Low Emission Development Strategies
EC-LEDS
Clean Energy Program



Visitors at America Days 2015 at EC-LEDS tent

AMERICA DAYS 2015

From June 1 to 6 the U.S. Embassy celebrated America Days to showcase American culture and U.S.-supported programs in four Georgian cities - Zugdidi, Akhaltsikhe, Gori and Tbilisi.

Organizing an Information Fair, the Embassy showed visitors about assistance programs, educational exchanges, consular and immigration services, various grants and other development projects supported by the U.S. Government in Georgia. Guests listened to American music and watched street dancing performed live by both Georgian and American artists and youth. For the occasion, the Embassy had invited the hip-hop and rock fusion music group "Dangerflow", based in Miami, Florida.

The EC-LEDS Clean Energy Program took part in America Days on June 6 in Tbilisi’s Rike Park. The team presented their projects, accompanied by an installation formed of energy efficient light bulbs, and distributed t-shirts, caps, key chains, and brochures to the public. This helped EC-LEDS team get their messages to the public about the benefits of energy-efficient measures and technologies.



EC-LEDS participated in a series of events under Sustainable Energy Week 2015 organized in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Center (EEC) Georgia, Akaki Tsereteli State University, Kutaisi City Hall and Tbilisi City Hall:

Kutaisi - The city hosted a scientific conference entitled “Sustainable Energy: Challenges and Development Prospects” organized by the Energy Efficiency Center Georgia and the Akaki Tsereteli State University. The EC-LEDS Acting COP delivered a presentation on EC-LEDS activities and the importance of Green Building to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Kutaisi - The EC-LEDS team participated in the presentation of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy project to be implemented at the Kutaisi Torpedo Sports Center and awarded city’s Torpedo football players with EC-LEDS caps.

Tbilisi - EC-LEDS took part in a conference entitled “Sustainable Energy Week 2015” in the Rooms Hotel, Tbilisi. The EC-LEDS Acting COP spoke on EC-LEDS scope of work and activities. The event was organized by Energy Efficiency Center Georgia and Tbilisi City Hall. The event was highlighted by Georgian media.

Tbilisi – Energy Week 2015 was closed by a students' architectural contest, "Best Coursework Design" organized by the EEC. EC-LEDS offered an award for the Best Green Design 2015. The prize and certificate were awarded to MA student Tamar Benashvili of the Georgian Technical University for “The Best Theoretical Analysis of Energy Efficiency Principles”. The author conducted a large-scale pre-design site assessment for a wine factory in the Kakheti region. Visual materials consisted of a site master plan, floor plans, facades, cross-sections and details according to scale. Three-dimensional views were merged with landscape photos to create a realistic perception of the building *in situ*. The author demonstrated a high level of understanding of pre-design study and showed good survey skills. In addition to graphic materials, Ms Benashvili submitted theoretical work separately, showing what technical solutions were made and which environmental strategies were elaborated.



(from left) Giorgi Abulashvili from EEC, GTU Professor Gia Arabidze, EC-LEDS COP Inga Pkhaladze and ATSU Professor Omar Zivzivadze at the Conference in Kutaisi



EC-LEDS staff distributing caps among Kutaisi Torpedo football players



(from left) EC-LEDS Acting COP Inga Pkhaladze, Deputy Tbilisi Mayor Irakli Lekvinadze, EEC Director Giorgi Abulashvili, Giorgi Chachanidze from Tbilisi City Hall



(from left) Giorgi Gonglasisvili from BP Georgia, Professors Levan Beradze and Gocha Mikiashvili from GTU, Winrock Georgia Outreach Manager Irina Sulava and the winner of EC-LEDS Nomination Tamar Benashvili

TRAINING FOR COM SIGNATORIES

In August EC-LEDS conducted a series of workshops dedicated to SEAP process:

- Training on project proposal development for mitigation measures in the sectors considered in SEAPs, conducted by Sustainable Development Center Remissia
- Training to create Sustainable Energy Offices and on related legal issues, led by EC-LEDS Acting Deputy COP Giorgi Giorgobiani
- Financial theories and terminology related to investment decision-making, introduced by EC-LEDS Legal Advisor Marina Guledani
- Training on Building energy labeling by DISPLAY, conducted by the GBC-Ge team.

Trainings were held in the Batumi Sheraton Hotel and hosted members of 11 municipalities that are signatories to the Covenant of Mayors: Tbilisi, Rustavi, Telavi, Akhaltsikhe, Batumi, Gori, Zugdidi, Kutaisi, Bolnisi, Kazbegi and Dusheti. The main objective was to demonstrate to participants how to identify project ideas on GHG mitigation and how to create project proposals based on these ideas. Training focused on developing the practical skills of the participants so they can translate a project idea into a proposal that is attractive, viable and convincing, and one that addresses all possible concerns of donors and stakeholders in a comprehensive way, maximizing its chances for funding.

By August 2015 the SEAPs for Gori and Telavi, as well as the MRV report for Tbilisi will be finalized. The SEAPs for Tbilisi and Akhaltsikhe are being elaborated.

LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (LEDS) PROCESS

EC-LEDS provided advisory services to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection (MoENRP) working on the latest development of Business as Usual (BAU) parameters and materials for the upcoming official Economic Council of GOG. An EC-LEDS Advisor provided his input and analysis of the process to reduce emissions by 25% from BAU (conditional and unconditional), thus meeting the goal of reducing emissions by 40% compared to the 1990 baseline.

The EC-LEDS Advisor arranged regular meetings with the staff and the Head of the Climate Change Office of the MoENRP to discuss progress in mitigation options and materials related to LEDS and INDC processes. The Advisor also worked closely with other ministries involved in the LEDS process. Especially fruitful was cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, who are major stakeholders of the LEDS development process in Georgia.



EC-LEDS organized a senior-level meeting at the Ministry of Environment, which was attended by three deputy ministers who work on the programs: Temur Murghulia, Deputy Minister of Environment, Mariam Valishvili, Deputy Minister of Energy and Irma Kavtaradze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development.

Mr. Murghulia expressed the position of the Government of Georgia by emphasizing the importance of EC-LEDS Clean Energy Program, and expressing the aim to develop the program further, to provide advisory and consultancy services to the GoG and to prepare the LEDS documents necessary. These findings will be an important tool for shaping Georgia’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC).