

Delegates Report



Committee	ICLEI World Congress, Malmö
Appointed Councillors	Cr Amanda Stone
Date of Council Meeting	10 th July 2022
Date of Report	3 rd July 2022
Report Author	Cr Amanda Stone

DELEGATES REPORT

Yarra Council is a long-term member of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and has joined a number of programs – currently the Global Covenant of Mayors (on emissions reduction) and Cities with Nature (on biodiversity and ecosystems).

ICLEI, a global organisation representing local and sub-national governments across the world, holds a World Congress every 3 years which any councillor from an ICLEI member council can attend.

I attended the ICLEI World Congress in Malmö from 10-14th May as a guest of the Malmö City Council. Along with 625 leaders from 50 countries, I attended as part of the Oceania delegation, as well as in my capacity as a Global Executive member, but also representing Yarra Council as an ICLEI member.

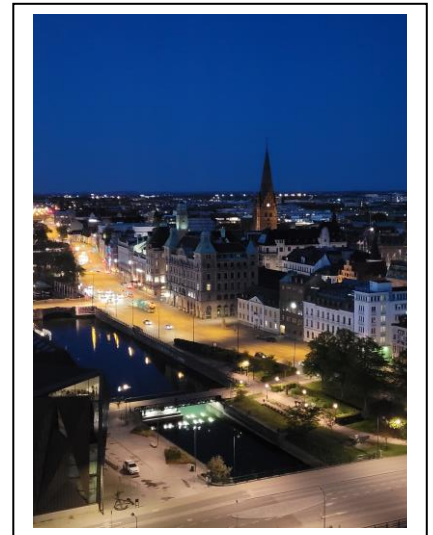
World Congress Themes

The focus of this World Congress was on people-centred development, recognising that the 5 ICLEI pillars of sustainable development:

- Low Emission Development
- Nature Based Development
- Circular Development
- Resilient Development
- Equitable and People Centred Development

cannot progress without placing people at their centre.

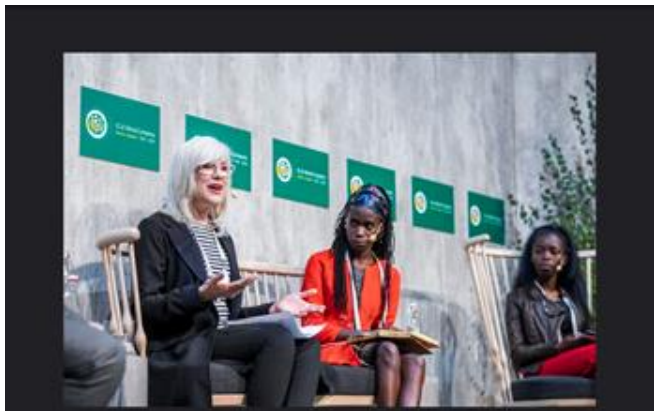
The three day event, the Malmö Summit, was preceded by a Research Symposium, a day dedicated to Research & Innovation, and a full day meeting of the Global Executive where I presented the work of the Oceania region including advocacy to our national government to form a partnership with local government nationally to increase our emission reductions.



The Malmö Summit sessions were presented in three categories:

- Strategies towards a climate neutral future
- Strategies towards resilient and healthy communities in harmony with nature
- Strategies towards equitable and inclusive communities

For cities, towns and regions to achieve these objectives, key enablers for action need to be leveraged. The Malmö Summit gave special attention to two of those enablers: Sustainable finance and Innovation. In addition, the key themes of public procurement, circular development and sustainable mobility were examined in a number of sessions.



Highlights of the Program

- Presentation by Oceania delegate Mayor Botika Maitinnara from Kiribas on the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on her nation
- **Beyond Electric Cars** – a session on sustainable mobility. How “front runner cities” worldwide are debunking the assumption of electric cars as the silver bullet for the transport transition and taking action to untap the potential of public transport and active mobility. A future-proof urban mobility will be active, public, digital, shared and electric, powered by renewable energy.



Mayor of Kiribas



Malmö electric bus fleet

- **From Materialisation to Deconstruction** – a session on making the building and construction, which produces 30% of the world’s emissions, more sustainable. From demolition by hand to create employment and recycle materials, to bio-based building materials and more efficient integration of services between buildings.
- Mobile workshops showcasing the sustainable development of Malmö. I attended Community building, health promotion and social inclusion at neighbourhood level. We visited the multicultural neighbourhood of Lindängen, in south Malmö where there are several socioeconomic and health related challenges.

Collaboration between municipal agencies, NGOs, community networks, the university and property owners has evolved to meet these challenges. We heard from each of these agencies and from residents themselves how participatory and co-creative action, trust-based relationships between the agencies, community building and strategies to build health literacy and resilience were the cornerstones of this successful model.

- Dinner (vegan) hosted by the Mayor of Malmö at the 600 year old Rathaus (town hall) with its hall of mirrors and history of successful resistance against the siege conducted by the Danes in 1677, resonating with the current conflict nearby in Ukraine.



Malmö Rathaus



City landscaping

As a panel member, I presented on:

- **“Planning Healthy Cities – planetary and human perspective in urban design”** highlighting Yarra as a case study in prioritising human health and wellbeing through the protection of nature, amplifying nature’s contributions to society and food sensitive urban planning.
- **“Bringing the Urban World back to peace and sustainability: Power of urban diplomacy”** ahead of the United Nations Secretary General launching his Advisory Group of Local and Regional Governments as part of his Our Common Agenda efforts under the UN reforms.



ICLEI Global Executive

The Malmö Commitment

The ICLEI World Congress culminated in the launch of the Malmö Commitment (see attached) which empowers local and regional governments to place people and social equity at the core of local sustainable development. The current climate emergency calls for a transition which is holistic, inclusive, and fair if cities are to contribute to the goals set in the Paris Agreement, and more broadly to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Local governments will be invited to adopt The Malmö Commitment individually.

Edinburgh Declaration

Finally, the Nature-Based Development stream of the congress focused on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, currently being negotiated between signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to be adopted at COP15 in Montreal in December. This Framework is currently the only global agreement to explicitly recognise the role of local governments in implementing its goals.

As part of this process. Local and subnational governments are being invited to sign the Edinburgh Declaration.

The Declaration calls on the Parties to the CBD to recognise the vital role of sub-national governments, cities and local authorities in delivering for biodiversity and implementing actions to meet the goals and targets.

Yarra Council was specifically invited to sign the Edinburgh Declaration to add its voice to local governments globally calling for transformative action on nature in the next decade.

The Edinburgh Declaration is consistent with Yarra's Nature Strategy and signing the declaration would affirm the actions and directions it contains.

It is recommended that Yarra Council sign the Edinburgh Declaration

PROPOSED MOTION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the Delegate's Report from the 2022 ICLEI World Congress; and
 - (b) commit to signing the Edinburgh Declaration to support the forthcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.