

Dakar's Climate and Energy Action Plan (PCET)

Through its Climate and Energy Action Plan, the City has aimed to establish a new paradigm for civic engagement and participatory governance. These efforts are a response to the common challenges in African cities of competing priorities of development and economic growth, general disengagement due to discontent or distrust, and linguistic, technological, and cultural barriers.



Programme for the Improvement of Urban Governance for an Energy & Ecological Transition

This program aims to stimulate collective awareness through education, information, awareness, and capacity building on climate change. The PCET approach focuses on the mobilization of stakeholders to improve the local governance of the ecological transition. Proactive measures for innovative civic engagement in climate planning included institutional support, public consultation, and targeted innovative communications

Institutional Arrangements

Efforts were focused on integrating climate change into development plans and priorities. To ensure coherence and upstream adoption PCET set up an organizational architecture:

Steering Committee - The organizational system was composed of a coordination unit and a steering committee supported by a technical committee. The committee met once a year and was composed of elected officials, city departments, decentralized state services, and civil society representatives. Its main roles were to represent the implementing body of PCET, monitor progress, validate adjustments, and submit the annual report.

DAKCLIM - Platform created to mobilize community actors to reinforce the institutional architecture for the co-construction of the PCET. It brought together a wide array of civil society organizations working across various sectors such as waste management, flood effect mitigation, coastline management, and the development of green spaces. It was composed of 28 members who provided participation and dissemination support through fora facilitation and communication campaigns.

City of Dakar's Citizen Dialogue Service - Supported public awareness and capacity-building efforts of community actors in all communities through its *Territorial Coaching* programme. It involved training territorial coaches in facilitation techniques to support public consultations.

RESULTS

The mayoral leadership sent a strong signal of legitimacy and commitment, thus encouraging greater participation. This institutional leadership facilitated the successful integration of external technical support from programs like the Covenant of Mayor in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) and C40 Cities.

Climate Communication & Capacity-Building Efforts

Dakar recognizes climate communication as critical for social change. It focused on building communication capacities of DAKCLIM to launch environmental campaigns. These initiatives were aimed at broadening the understanding of climate change challenges and solutions among Dakar's citizens, including groups often excluded from such conversations, like women and young people. These actions included engagement through different channels (i.e., radio, art, exhibitions, flyers, trade shows) and formal/informal education.

Mass Awareness Campaigns

Ecological Hiking - Focused on raising awareness about eco-gestures and promoting eco-friendly behaviors, it mobilized more than 2,000 Dakar residents.

Environmental Hip Hop - Youth engagement through neighborhood clean-ups and graffiti activities with messages directed to address social barriers

Environmental education - Inspired by the COP24 Katowice Declaration, the PCET and the European Union co-organized activities on environmental issues, eco-citizen actions, community garden set up, a day of reforestation, and training of young people on plastic waste management for the construction of bricks and green benches.

Training to city officials and civil society - The PCET followed a training plan aiming to benefit elected officials, administrative authorities, decentralized state services, and community actors. The themes included climate change issues, public policies, urban and scenario planning, eco-responsibility and eco-citizenship, energy efficiency, social responsibility, and communication and social marketing.

RESULTS

These activities resulted in the activation of 32 public and private schools and the training of 261 public sector representatives and 28 civil society members.

Broad Consultations

The main objective of these spaces was to create an open and inclusive space for dialogue to enable social cohesion in the PCET co-development. The strategies deployed included focus groups and multi-stakeholder consultations. The consultations served as exchange, confrontation, and solution spaces between elected officials, neighborhood delegates, imams, Badienou Gokh, community organizations, and sociocultural associations.

After meticulous stakeholder mapping, a request for expression of interest was used to assess the capacity and power to influence community engagement. The appointment of **Green Ambassadors** was essential for participatory and inclusive climate planning. These focal points included key members of institutions, the Badienou Gokh, artists, and rappers.

RESULTS

A total of 57 focus groups were organized and 500 community stakeholders were mobilized for sensibilization and consultation across all 19 city municipalities. The involvement of Badienou Gokh (neighborhood godmothers) enabled hard-to-reach disadvantaged populations through trusted messengers with communication tailored to local and individual contexts. Their involvement also allowed for a stronger consideration of gender aspects of climate action.