

NEWSLETTER

100 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PROJECT CAMPAIGN



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The "100 climate solution projects campaign" was in full swing during the months of June, July and August 2016. The results have exceeded our expectations. At August 31st, 2016, the closing date of this first campaign, the R20 has received more than 550 projects developed by local authorities worldwide. The partners' networks of cities and regions such as ICLEI, FMDV, SALGA, TGO, ARE, and ORU Fogar were particularly active. We thank them for their great mobilization effort and constant support to the campaign.

By September 15th, more than 400 projects have been pre-assessed, including 136 related to renewable energy, 142 on waste management, 84 on LED street lighting, 25 on eco construction, 8 on wastewater treatment and 5 on soil rehabilitation. In addition, fifteen projects come from pilgrimage cities and more than thirty bring forward women's leadership. Finally, a number of projects are specifically related to climate change adaptation measures.

Beyond these initial statistics, the massive return of the campaign "100 climate projects" reveals several important highlights:

First, it demonstrates a real awareness of local and regional authorities on the need for a change of the economic paradigm to enable the energy transition.

Second, it proves that this strong political will for change translates into concrete projects. All around the world, the green market economy is maturing: local authorities are on the front line and are ready to act.

Third, the enthusiasm for the campaign has highlighted the needs on the ground. Indeed, there is a structural gap in the support for local authorities wishing to identify, develop, organize and develop bankable projects. To meet this need, philanthropic funds are clearly insufficient; moreover, the mechanisms provided by multilateral organizations (UN Agencies and Development Banks) are not easily accessible locally.

For these reasons, the R20 and the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation are presently developing an ecosystem of blending finance, involving on the one hand, pre-investment funds dedicated to supporting local authorities in project preparation, and the other hand, philanthropic investment funds (the Planet Pledge Fund) and conventional (the Green investment Accelerator Facility) to access traditional funding mechanisms.

However, the magnitude of the return to the “100 climate projects” campaign is such that the R20, as of today, cannot respond to all requests. Therefore, a step-by-step approach is proposed:

1. All projects responding to the campaign selection criteria will be listed, posted and published for presentation on our website (www.regions20.org) during the UN Climate Week in New York, from 15 to 19 September 2016, as well as at COP 22 in Marrakech.
2. A first thorough evaluation of the projects will be made before the end of 2016. It will be conducted bilaterally (R20 and LDF) and collectively, involving the networks of cities and regions. Three types of projects will be identified: i) projects that, after verification, may be submitted directly to the various investment funds mentioned above; ii) projects which will be submitted to dedicated pre-investment funds, to have their feasibility studies conducted, leading to their bankability; and iii) the projects that, in their current state, cannot be retained by the R20. For the latter projects, a platform for exchange and counselling will be provided, to accompany and lead them to maturity.
3. Projects qualifying for pre-investment funds will be submitted early 2017. They will be evaluated according to these funds’ specific criteria. The missions will start in the first quarter of 2017.
4. Appreciating the extent of the needs expressed, the R20 has decided to set up an online support tool for cities and regions, enabling access to more information about the best sub-national legislative and institutional practices in the green economy, the best technologies and the different financial instruments.

Through this step-by-step approach, by 2020, the R20 aims to enable the bankability of at least a hundred projects that can then be funded through the investment funds mentioned above, as well as through the contribution of many private co-investors, for whom the participation of above funds may serve as an opportunity indicator. Several billion dollars will thus be raised to meet project funding needs.

In our next newsletter, following the UN Climate Week, we will be able to respond individually to all the projects submitted, as well as send the official results of the campaign, which will also be presented at COP 22 in Marrakech (November 2016).

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