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# Initiative to promote carbon-neutral cities

## Workshop on climate change and sustainable technologies

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** To highlight the grim reality that cities are becoming huge sources of greenhouse gas emissions because of increasing growth in their population, a two-day international workshop on "Confronting climate change towards carbon-neutral Indian cities" will open at India Habitat Centre here on October 29.

To be organised by CMS Environment, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Royal Norwegian Embassy here and the Association of Municipalities and Development Authorities, the theme of the workshop will be "Climate change and sustainable technologies".

The workshop would aim at pointing out how cities can cope with climate change in particular through use of appropriate technology. It will provide a platform for city planners and officials, technology researchers, people from public and private sectors and other relevant stake-

holders to develop an action plan for environmentally sustainable cities in the context of climate change.

The action plan includes identification of policy requirements, strategies and programmes, markets and employment opportunities.

The discussions will lead to publication of a clear policy advisory on the initiatives to move towards green carbon-neutral Indian cities. The recommendations of the workshop will be widely circulated among city planners, policy-makers, and green technologist.

Pointing out that emissions in cities get embedded in the immediate living environment, CMS Environment intends to use the workshop as a forum to create public awareness that emissions stem from electricity con-

sumed in domestic, commercial and public sectors. Be it lighting, cooling, water pumping, office management or consumption of fossil fuels in sectors such as transport and cooking or operation of generators for generating electricity, all these activities lead to emission.

### Action plan

In its national climate action plan on climate change in June 2008 the Union Government had taken the initiative to mainstream climate-friendly technologies through some key missions. However, the missions need to be effectively integrated into the city development plans as actionable items. The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change has recommended that action must be immediate.

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- Recommendations of the workshop will be widely circulated among city planners