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Twenty-ninth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-29) of the North-East Asian Subregional
Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

25-26 November 2026

Moscow, Russian Federation

REVIEW OF PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

(Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda)

Low Carbon Cities

Note by the Secretariat

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Cities

Annex II. (Draft) Activity Plan for Low Carbon Cities in 2027

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Asia-Pacific region is currently home to more than 2.2 billion urban residents, accounting for over half of the world's urban population and approximately 67.4% of the region's population. While urbanization offers significant opportunities for higher productivity, technological innovation and improved access to services, cities will need to continue addressing growing environmental and climate-related challenges amidst rapid urban transition.¹

2. The key role of cities in advancing environmental and climate agenda, including decarbonization, have been well recognized. Work is ongoing under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to develop the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, which will assess urban climate impacts and risks as well as recommend actions and solutions to reduce urban risks and emissions. In addition, a UN review of third-generation Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0) showed that countries are prioritizing cities compared to previous cycles with more well-developed urban content and urban mitigation and adaptation responses, among others.

3. These developments set a good momentum in further revitalizing the North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform (NEA-LCCP), endorsed by the nineteenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-19), to facilitate knowledge sharing and cooperation on low-carbon urban development. In line with the objective under the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 to develop NEA-LCCP to a fully functional platform supporting communications and cooperation as well as promoting awareness and capacity for developing and implementing low carbon city plans, SOM-28 encouraged continued active participation by cities and municipalities in NEASPEC activities, including through the approved [NEA-LLC Activity Plan 2026](#).

II. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2026 ACTIVITY PLAN

Knowledge Production: Low Carbon City Networks Online Platform

4. The secretariat developed [an online hub for knowledge sharing and coordination](#) under NEA-LCCP lodged in the NEASPEC website. It allows partners to share information on ongoing projects and planned activities, aimed towards finding opportunities for

¹ *Urban Transformation in Asia and the Pacific: From Growth to Resilience*, ESCAP theme study for the 81st Commission session, 2025.

collaboration. The secretariat will continue to develop the platform's interface, in line with feedback from partners on the platform's content and usefulness.

Knowledge Sharing: 6th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities

5. The 6th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities will be held on 23–24 November 2026 in Moscow, Russian Federation, under the theme “Enhancing Connectivity for Low-Carbon Urban Transformation amid Paradigm Shifts.” Organized by the City of Moscow, Incheon Metropolitan City and ESCAP (serving as the secretariat for NEASPEC), the forum is also held in conjunction with the International Municipal Forum (IMF) organized by the City of Moscow. (Annex I)

6. The forum will bring together cities and other stakeholders to exchange practical experiences in advancing low-carbon urban development. The forum will feature three sessions covering physical and digital connectivity for low-carbon urban transformation; partnerships and knowledge networks for collective action; and future-oriented cities for navigating shifting development priorities and emerging challenges.

Knowledge Dissemination: Outreach

7. The secretariat continued its efforts to raise awareness on low carbon cities work, facilitated under NEASPEC, through participating in several outreach engagements, such as the Shenzhen Low Carbon City Forum (September 2025) and the World Island Cities Conference (Yeosu, September 2026). These efforts helped broaden engagement with cities, city networks and relevant institutions and identify opportunities for continued collaboration under NEA-LCCP.

III. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2027

8. Building on the progress made in 2026 and in line with the envisaged outputs on low carbon cities under the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 endorsed by member States, the secretariat will facilitate work together with NEA-LCCP partners to increase knowledge resources on urban climate action and enhance exchange of knowledge and best practices on low carbon urban development, at the same time, to bring the work of NEASPEC on low carbon cities to a wider regional audience. The proposed plan comprises three activities: (a) developing a policy brief compilation with NEA-LCCP partners on the thematic issues of the 9th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-9); (b) organizing the 7th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities; and (c) conducting outreach engagements, including participation in APUF-9. These activities are intended to further strengthen the role of NEA-LCCP in supporting knowledge sharing and cooperation on low carbon urban development.

IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. The Meeting may wish to request member States to:
- (a) Take note of the progress achieved under NEASPEC's work on low carbon cities and provide further guidance on how to deliver the envisaged outputs on low carbon cities in line with the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030; and
 - (b) Review and approve the proposed activity plan for 2027 and provide further guidance on its implementation (Annex II).

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