

Developing Low Carbon Society 2035 Bhopal - Initiatives and Actions

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Today we are faced with a series of global problems, which are harming the biosphere and human life in alarming ways that may soon become irreversible. Particularly, emissions in cities continue to pose a significant threat to health, the environment and the quality of life of millions of people across nations. The urban changes are dramatic – there are dozens of cities whose populations grew tenfold in 30 years. Like all the cities in developing nations in Indian cities too, rapid urbanization and industrialization have added impetus to economic development at the cost of environment.

We had prepared a Low Carbon Society Scenario – Bhopal for the year 2035. In the study, Seven Actions have been suggested which are seen as the key actions which can influence the existing energy consumption pattern as well Greenhouse Gas emissions in future. These actions have been defined with an understanding of the inherent strengths and potentials of Bhopal district which can be explored at this time of rapid development.



In pursuit of developing Bhopal as a low carbon city, the menu of policies and measures fosters numerous objectives and these policy priorities change and evolve constantly with challenges of the day. Many of the measures in these areas overlap with each other and also with measures that are taken to protect the local environment. In the present study we have documented and analyzed the current practices and initiatives that have a potential to lead the city towards a low carbon future. We are presenting here one such initiative of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Bhopal which has recently become operational.

Amongst the Seven Actions suggested above, the initiative of BRTS comes under the category of – *Form & Flow: Transforming Transport Infrastructure.*

Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURMU) scheme has initiated Bus Rapid Transport System (BRTS) plan for Bhopal in phased manner. The first phase of 44 kms BRTS corridors is being developed. This system has become operational under the coordinating agency Bhopal City Link Ltd (BCLL). The first stage of City Link Bus corridor has linked Misrod (South-eastern area), through central business district locations of Board Office, New Market, and Lalghati to Bairagarh (North-west area) covering a distance of 24 kms across the city of Bhopal. Along with the BRTS corridor network, the transport infrastructure in Bhopal is being transformed with widening of roads, construction of over bridges on railway crossings, flyovers for fast transit, multi-storey parking at various locations, and pedestrian subways at major traffic junctions apart from promotion of public transport system and non-motorized transport modes.

This initiative indicates that appropriate actions that will lead Bhopal towards low carbon future are being implemented. However, present policies further need to be integrated, combining aspects of economic and market-based instruments, demand restraint, the provision of alternatives, education and dissemination of information in a packaged approach. It is also evident that attaining a significant degree of behavioural change, within the necessary time frame for long term consequences will require greater decisiveness and stronger signals from government.