



PRESS RELEASE

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Kolkata launches LED pilot as part of The Climate Group's Lightsavers Program.

Kolkata, India: The Climate Group and The **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** have unveiled an extensive LED pilot project this weekend. The trial will see LED streetlights installed in nine arterial roads across Kolkata with 350 lights being tested in total. The project will evaluate the performance of LED luminaries with respect to illuminance, uniformity, color temperature, durability, longevity, and color shift over 2-3 years.

In launching the pilot, Kolkata is teaming up with 10 other cities around the world including New York, London and Hong Kong, which are all participating in the first phase of The Climate Group's [Lightsavers program](#). The installation of LEDs, which use substantially less power than conventional light bulbs, is an important step towards making street-lighting more energy efficient, greener and cheaper to run.

Pilot projects internationally have so far shown a reduction of 40-50 per cent in electricity use when LEDs replace high efficiency sodium vapour lamps, and savings of up to 70 per cent when LEDs are used with smart controls. With lighting accounting for around nine per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions with total operating costs of \$19 billion per year, the technology has huge potential to lower emissions and save money. In addition, LEDs have demonstrated a variety of additional co-benefits, including better quality lighting, lower maintenance costs, enhanced public safety, and improved public satisfaction.

The project is being carried out in joint collaboration with the Government of India's **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, the **West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (WBSEDCL)**, and the **West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB)**, with overall facilitation by The Climate Group.

Lightsavers is funded by the [HSBC Climate Partnership](#) which supports The Climate Group's pioneering work to create cleaner, greener, more prosperous cities. These global LED testing projects will provide data, independent from manufacturers, to demonstrate the performance of LEDs which will help develop a framework for considering wider use of the technology.

Mayor of KMC, Mr Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, said this pilot will go a long way in inculcating energy conservation efforts in the rapidly growing city. "We have been trying to change for some time now and attitudes take a long time to change" he said, thanking The Climate Group for their role.

Mr Sushil Kumar Sharma, Member, Mayor-in-Council, KMC, also complimented The Climate Group and praised the efforts of Ms Aditi Dass who spent many hours at KMC working alongside officials to see the project through.

Sandipan Mukherjee of WBPCB complimented the participating organizations for the "path-breaking project" saying, "the project means a lot to our society as it will lay the foundation for future energy management strategies in the urban sector, especially in Kolkata." He was pleased to see the administrators, regulators, manufacturers and NGOs working in partnership to reduce carbon emissions.

Mr Anirban Guha of WBSEDCL, said the pilot had made "our role easier by taking the lead."

Mr Yenten Lama, HSBC India's CEO's Representative stressed that climate change is an economic, as well as a social challenge which HSBC has pledged to address. "Our role as trusted advisors was to make clients understand the risks," he said. He highlighted HSBC's commitment to promoting low carbon growth pathways around the world and especially in rapidly growing countries like India.

Mr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, Member, Mayor-in-Council, Lighting and Electricity, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, said: "Kolkata has always been at the forefront in adopting the latest global trends, especially in the provision of services to the public at large. I am confident this pilot, in promoting energy efficient street LED lighting, will be a beacon to guide green practices for times to come."

The Climate Group's Aditi Dass said: "This groundbreaking LED trial holds huge potential for Kolkata, and puts them among a group of global cities that are leading the world in the demonstration of this key technology. Not only do LEDs have the potential to substantially cut emissions and reduce costs, but they can also bring with them a range of other important benefits that will make Kolkata more livable, improving people's lives. We are delighted to be working with The Kolkata Municipal Corporation and our other forward thinking partners on this exciting project."

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The Climate Group (www.theclimategroup.org)

The Climate Group is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working internationally with government and business leaders to advance smart policies and technologies to cut global emissions and accelerate a low carbon economy. Its global coalition of 78 leading companies, states, regions and cities around the world recognize the economic and environmental imperatives of taking decisive action now. The Climate Group was founded in 2004 and has operations in Australia, China, Europe, India and North America.

Lighting and Climate Change

Globally, lighting accounts for 19 percent of the world's annual electricity use, nine percent of CO2 emissions, and about \$19 billion in annual operating costs. The global CO2 emissions from lighting exceeds emissions from all commercial buildings worldwide (6.3%) and approaches that of all residential buildings (10.2%) and road vehicles (10.5%) worldwide.

Lightsavers

Lightsavers is currently working with 10 global cities and will test a range of LED products as part of the trial. The Program launched its first global pilots in New York with the Department of Transportation in August 2009. The NYC pilots are located in Central Park and FDR Drive, one of the city's busiest roadways. Initial results show that the LED lights use half as much energy as the existing lighting. By 2020,

For the Climate Group's Lightsavers Program: <http://www.theclimategroup.org/programs/lightsavers/>

About the HSBC Climate Partnership

The HSBC Climate Partnership is a five-year programme between HSBC, The Climate Group, Earthwatch Institute, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and WWF, to inspire action on climate change. Since 2007, we have been working around the world - with a focus on Brazil, China, India, the UK and USA - to:

- Reduce the carbon emissions of major cities
- Measure the effects of climate change on the world's forests
- Help prepare major rivers and waterways - and the millions of people who depend on them - for climate change
- Engage thousands of people in climate action and research, equipping them to act as 'climate champions' in their workplace and community
- Build HSBC employees' capability and commitment to sustainable business practice.