

Key figures from a global survey resource efficiency

In June 2012 at Rio+20 global summit on sustainable development UNEP launched the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities (GI-REC) to capitalize on the potential for cities to lead action towards greater resource efficiency. The primary objective of the GI-REC is to integrate resource efficiency along with sustainable production and consumption into policies, tools and decision-making at the city level.

To inform the strategic direction of the GI-REC, UNEP undertook a comprehensive review and analysis of resource efficiency in cities. The review was based on existing research, the experience and knowledge of city managers and practitioners, and

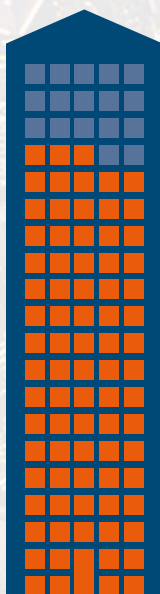
the expertise of key urban stakeholders. The review results in three products:

1. An assessment of needs for promoting resource efficiency at the city level – **A global survey of city leaders.**
2. An assessment of current activities carried out by different stakeholders and organizations on resource efficiency at the city level – **A global mapping exercise.**
3. An assessment of the best tools for cities and other organizations to use to improve resource efficiency – **A toolkit to guide city-level resource efficiency improvements.**

How do cities understand resource efficiency?

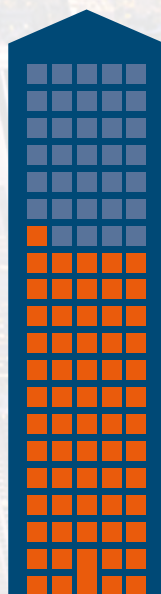
83%

familiar with
'resource efficiency'



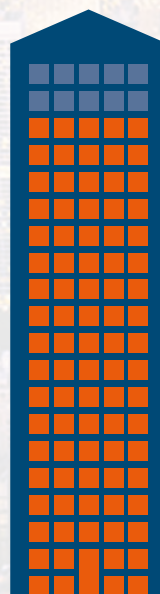
66%

link resource efficiency
to 3 dimensions:



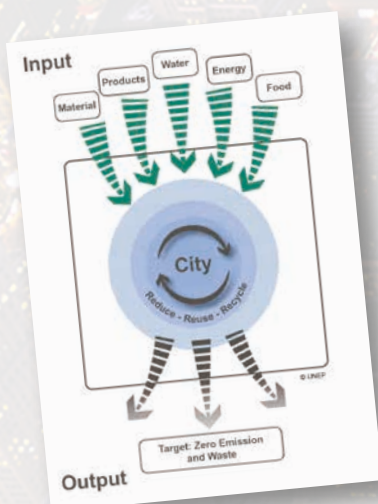
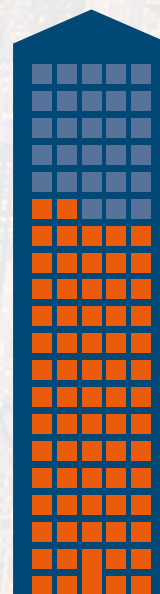
90%

understand resource
efficiency as
"enhances the quality of
life in urban areas"



72%

relate resource
efficiency to financial
and economic concerns



- 1 Financial & Economic
- 2 Natural & Environment
- 3 Human & Quality of life

Quality of
life is a key
political
argument

2 critical recommendations:

- Promoting the business case for investment to strengthen the political motivation for action
- Showcasing established, and unlocking, novel forms of financing

Global perspective: Resources ranked at the highest risk



Biodiversity

Climate stability

Energy, Air, Water and Land soil

Regional perspective: Resources ranked at the highest risk



Biodiversity
71%
Land and soil
62%
Water
62%
Climate stability
31%

Latin America

Biodiversity,
Land and soil
100%
Water
90%
Raw Materials
80%
Food
70%

Africa

Land and soil
93%
Water
87%
Air
65%
Energy
65%

South Asia

Energy and Raw
Materials
71%
Food
62%
Climate stability
62%
Biodiversity
62%

East Asia

What drives cities to manage their resources?



Climate change



Population growth



Rising prices of resources

Why do they implement Resource Efficiency Strategies?



Better management of the environment



Improvement in social conditions



Improvement in city competitiveness

Three Key findings*

- 1 Resource challenges are context specific – Region and location is a critical factor when assessing resources at risk
- 2 Cities are generally aware of their most urgent resource risks, but the link between knowledge and implementation is lagging
- 3 The 3 elements that shape cities perceptions: **Effective risk** (actual exposure), prior **Experience**, and level of **Awareness**

*Additional findings and conclusions are presented in the full report

What tools do they use to impact resource management?

Legally binding urban development plan



Specific Programs or projects



Sectoral strategy/ Action plan



What are the obstacles to policies implementation?



Lack of guidance to identify and apply appropriate tools and instruments



Lack local skills or a clear mandate to implement RE programme



Financing

What enables RE policies implementation?



Encouraged Participatory Governance



Integrated urban development approach



Stimulated Innovation

The survey was distributed to **310** cities, of which **134** responded, **98** adequately completed and considered valid. The results presented here are based on **98** responses from **38** countries and **7** world regions. **75%** of the cities are located in wealthy countries with high or very high HDI. **9.2%** from Oceania, **35.8%** from Asia, **10.2%** from Africa, **20.4%** from Europe, **13.3%** from Latin America and **7.1%** from North America.