

Thailand's National Policy on Low-Carbon Urban Development in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement

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A set of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals was adopted in 2015 and the Paris Agreement has also put in place the framework, milestones and the support to enable this essential global transformation on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agreement is a breakthrough in international climate policy that is applicable to all countries.

The twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan, NESDP (2017-2021) of Thailand will be adopted and implemented in the last quarter of the year 2016, while the Climate Change Master Plan, CCMP (2015-2050) was adopted in 2015. Thailand submitted the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent of economic-wide coverage from the projected business-as-usual (BAU) level by 2030. The level of contribution could increase up to 25 percent, subject to adequate and enhanced access to technology development and transfer, financial resources and capacity building support through a balanced and ambitious global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Urban areas account for more than half of global primary energy use and energy-related CO₂ emissions (IPCC, 2014). Urbanization is associated with increasing in income, and higher urban income are correlated with higher energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, there is however an opportunity for mitigation actions in urban areas expecting to be most effective when policy instruments are bundle. For developing cities in Thailand, mitigation options would include shaping their urbanization and infrastructure development could be towards more sustainable and low-carbon development pathways.

In this regards, main concepts, direction, strategies, as well as action plans of the new NESDP, the CCMP and other sectoral development plans need to explore and analyze the potential and effectiveness of mitigation actions toward a low carbon urban development to achieve successful co-benefit implementation of urban-scale climate change mitigation strategies and action plans.