

Eleven Pathways to Effective Climate Mitigation in Intermediary Cities: A Review with Reflections on Lampang and Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

Policy Lab: Eco-Industry Research and Training Center,

Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University

Why Intermediary Cities Matter: Intermediary cities that connect rural and urban areas are essential to achieving global climate goals. These cities offer possibilities for sustainable urban growth, but they also frequently struggle with a lack of resources and governance capabilities. In order to facilitate effective climate mitigation in these vital urban areas, UN-Habitat examines **eleven strategic approaches**. [The Effective Climate Governance in Intermediary Cities: A Focus on Climate Mitigation guide](#) outlines key strategies and offers practical guidance for urban managers and policymakers (UN-Habitat, 2025). This review summarizes the eleven pathways and explores their potential application in two intermediary cities: **Lampang** and **Nakhon Pathom**.

Overview of the Eleven Pathways

1. Raise Awareness and Strengthen Stakeholder Participation

Public awareness is the primary essential component for climate action. Intermediary cities have manageable jurisdictions, which makes it possible to reach out to people in such areas.

2. Enhance Capacity for Effective Climate Mitigation

To be effective, capacity-building must fill in deficiencies in technical, financial, and institutional areas. Cities are encouraged to adopt toolkits like the UNDP's Capacity Assessment Tool to make their plans for resilience stronger.

3. Develop and Implement Supportive Policy and Legal Frameworks

Strong legal frameworks facilitate climate-resilient land utilization and services. Cities should use performance-based rules and incentives to encourage green investments and make climate action a part of their overall municipal strategies.

4. Establish a Climate Governance Framework

Setting up climate offices or taskforces makes it easier to collaborate together. The Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network project in Vietnam shows how integrated governance can enhance efficiency and national alignment.

5. Strengthen Coordination with Higher Levels of Government

Collaborating with national or subnational governments can improve climate action initiatives in intermediary cities. Collaboration promotes knowledge-sharing, financial access, capacity-building, and cooperative climate action programs.

6. Ensure Financial Sustainability for Climate Mitigation

Cities need to find steady sources of money through things like participatory budgeting, green bonds, and local climate funds. Street lighting taxes in Indonesia are an example of a scalable finance scheme that uses new ideas.

7. Advocate for Climate-Sensitive Urban Plans

Climate integration into urban plans, such as transportation and energy systems, ensures resilience. UN-Habitat resources include Planning for Climate Change and the Law and Climate Change Toolkit provide useful guidance.

8. Use Data and Effective Communication Channels

Developing evidence-based climate change strategies and policies requires good communication and data use. Collaborating across departments and government levels is crucial for collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing accurate climate data.

9. Leverage Partnerships with the Private Sector

Through public-private partnerships, cities are able to leverage the knowledge, skills, and resources of the private sector to develop and execute creative solutions.

10. Foster Regional and Global Partnerships

Participation in global city networks opens doors to shared solutions and financing.

11. Strengthen Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Systems

Monitoring systems that are transparent are indispensable. In order to guarantee climate accountability, municipalities need to implement digital tools and evaluate third-party assessments.

Reflections on Lampang

Lampang can use capacity building (Pathway 2) and policy integration (Pathway 3) because of its heritage, forest resources, and environmental problems such as burning biomass. Getting current academics and civil society actors involved can assist people in the area understand and support pollution monitoring (Pathways 1 and 11). Community-led forest projects and planning that includes everyone and uses data (Pathways 6 and 8) are ideal ways to start creating climate resilience. This is especially applicable when they are supported by multi-level governance that includes stakeholders at the provincial and national levels (Pathway 5).

Reflections on Nakhon Pathom

Nakhon Pathom, which is next to the Bangkok Metropolitan Region, possesses significant potential for effective climate-sensitive urban development and data integration (Pathways 7 and 8). The differences between cities and rural areas and the skills of institutions make it possible to set up a local climate coordinating mechanism (Pathway 4) and join global networks (Pathways 10 and 11). The pathway 6's participatory budgeting and Pathway 5's integrated governance at the municipal and national levels provide Nakhon Pathom an enhanced model for implementing climate action in Thailand.

Conclusion

The eleven pathways outlined by UN-Habitat offer cities such as **Lampang and Nakhon Pathom** a useful guide for adapting climate change measures to their needs. These cities are in a good position to scale up climate action since they have strong connections between cities and rural areas.

Policy Lab: Eco-Industry Research and Training Center, which is part of the Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies at Mahidol University in Nakhon Pathom, provides significant research and training to aid these efforts. We collaborate with locals in the area, recently, for instance, [we held a Carbon Footprint for Organizations \(CFO\) training in Lampang](#) on July 4–5, 2025. The main goal of the program was to raise awareness of climate change by encouraging farmer groups and industries in both **Nakhon Pathom and Lampang** to assess their greenhouse gas emissions. To make Thailand's intermediary cities more significant in achieving national and global climate goals, we need to work with policy-makers, corporations, and community groups to strengthen these localized programs.

Reference

UN-Habitat. (2025). *A Guide for Urban Managers: Effective Climate Governance in Intermediary Cities—A Focus on Climate Mitigation*. Nairobi: United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Available at: <https://unhabitat.org>