EC-LEDS FACEBOOK CONTEST

The EC-LEDS Outreach Team initiated a Facebook contest entitled “Energy Efficiency is a Smart Choice”. The contest was launched on October 7, which continued through the week of February 29, 2016.

The EC-LEDS Outreach Team posted a question once a week and awarded winners with EC-LEDS promotional caps, t-shirts and key chains at the EC-LEDS office.

EC-LEDS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EC-LEDS produced a bilingual brochure summarizing EC-LEDS’ major accomplishments to date. Program staff will distribute the brochure during future EC-LEDS events.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS A SMART CHOICE

EC-LEDS launched its Facebook Page. Follow us on: www.facebook.com/energoepqutoba

Misaktsiel Public School hosted students and teachers from the villages of Dzveli Kanda, Akhaldaba, Tsikani, Ksorviri, Jinnavi, Tchartali, Khervsurtsopeli and Misaktsiel during the Youth Event “Energy Efficiency Is A Smart Choice” in December. The EC-LEDS Clean Energy Program empowers youth through training on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The main objective is to involve youth in energy efficiency, contributing to climate change mitigation.

The students were selected from “Momavis Taoba” (Future Generation) program partner schools from 9th to 11th grades of Mtikheha, TianeTi and Dusheti Municipalities in collaboration with the Mtikheha-Mtianeti Committee of Anti-Violence Network of Georgia. The Committee implements Momavis Taoba project with 27 partner public schools in the region. The “Momavis Taoba” (MT) program, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), implemented in Georgia by PH International and is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (MES).

During the event, students were given a presentation entitled, “How to Save Energy” followed by a contest “Energy Efficiency Is A Smart Choice” to demonstrate the energy efficiency (EE) skills acquired at the seminar. Professor Gia Arabidze, Dean of Energy and Telecommunications Faculty at Georgian Technical University, gave the presentation. Professor Arabidze spoke about the importance of energy efficiency, ways of saving energy, energy auditing, energy efficiency in the residential sector, energy efficient technologies, simple tips to save energy at home, energy efficient appliances, renewable energies, energy efficient/ renewable energy projects implemented under donor support, energy efficiency and climate change. Professor Arabidze awarded the contest winners medals, and all students received participation certificates.
In December, the EC-LEDS team participated in a Donor Coordination Meeting in Akhaltsikhe Municipality. The municipality presented the Akhaltsikhe Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), Sustainable Development Agency projects and the Energy Efficient Exterior Lighting of Akhaltsikhe Castle developed under the SEAP framework. The city of Akhaltsikhe joined the Covenant of Mayors on October 31, 2014 and took the voluntary commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 20% by 2020.

With technical assistance from the EC-LEDS program, the city prepared a SEAP for 2016-2020 and planned specific mitigation measures in the sectors of transport, building, public lighting, waste, and greening. The city decided to establish a Sustainable Development Agency and allocated funds for this purpose in its 2016 budget. This ensures the success of the SEAP in particular, and the sustainable development of Akhaltsikhe city in general.

**COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL MARKETING**

Kutaisi City Hall contacted the EC-LEDS program to change plans for the greening activities as part of their CB3M campaign. Kutaisi City Hall decided to arrange an energy efficient public park, to be located above the undergound on Rustaveli Avenue in the central-historical district of the city. The location is ideal as it contains several public gathering areas: public transport stops, tourism information center, Art Gallery, Public School #1, Golden Marquee, mixed market, and various merchant entities located in the underground. The park will serve as recreation area for the residents of Kutaisi as well as tourists.

Kutaisi City Hall plans to install a Daisy-shaped “Solar Tree” equipped with solar elements and modern technologies including USB charging points (for cell phones, notebooks and other electrical devices), Wi-Fi, electronic library, benches and greening (the park will be surrounded with bush and shrubs) and solar energy lighting. Kutaisi City Hall’s strategy for reduction of GHG emissions envisages the reduction of energy consumption using economical, accessible and energy efficient/renewable energy technologies.

EC-LEDS agreed to Kutaisi Municipality’s request as well as the installation of the Solar Tree as part of its CB3M Campaign. The Municipality will present the “Daisy” to the public on May 3, 2016 during the Public Park opening and celebration of the Kutaisoba holiday.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

EC-LEDS resumed airing of Energy Efficiency Public Service Announcements (PSA) on National TV Channels as social advertisements. During February the videos were on air of Imedi TV, Rustavi 2 and Channel 1.

**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN (SEAP) PROCESS**

The end of 2015 and beginning of 2016 turned out to be busy for the representatives of Bolnisi Municipality, a CDM signatory. In November 2015, the municipality started further developing its SEAP to meet the CO2 reduction commitment for the Municipality territory covering Bolnisi City as well as surrounding settlements and villages. Due to the large scale, the baseline inventory and identification of future mitigation measures took longer than usual and required intensive technical support from the project.

In addition to daily collection of information, in February the project team conducted a working meeting at Bolnisi Municipality with participation of the representatives from different Units and Services (Head of Infrastructure Unit; Head of Ltd. Municipal Transport of Municipality, etc.) and local experts who were hired to support the data gathering process locally. The project expert team facilitated the discussion on future SEAP mitigation actions in all sectors for Bolnisi Municipality. At the end of the working meeting, the representatives of the Municipality identified a considerable number of mitigation actions to be included in the SEAP document.

By the end of February, after finalizing the data information collection and analysis, Bolnisi drafted the following chapters of its SEAP: agriculture, buildings, street lighting, greening, and waste. The working versions of the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) plan and communications strategy were prepared as well.

In December 2015, the project provided technical support to Tbilisi City Hall to organize the consultation meeting on Tbilisi SEAP, MRV report and project proposals. All relevant units and departments of the Municipality participated and provided final inputs and suggestions.

Meanwhile, the project continued technical assistance to Tbilisi City Hall to technically revise and finalize the proposal on rehabilitation of Tbilisi kindergartens presented in February 2016 to the Technology Development Fund of Tbilisi City Hall and Agency of Kindergartens of Tbilisi.

**THE LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (LEDS) PROCESS**

Below is a summary of activities undertaken from December 2015 through February 2016:

- **Update of MARKAL-Georgia** – the program shifted the base year to 2014, so therefore reviewed and updated all model inputs. The updated model is currently under review by Decision Ware Group (DWG) and the Analytic Department of the Ministry of Energy.

- **Training of the Ministry of Energy Analytical Department** – The program began updating the model as well as reviewing its results in close collaboration with the Analytical Department. The program also provided on-job training on model structure and inputs, and on analysis of the results.

- **Development of Table of Contents (TOC) for LEDs** – The program prepared the preliminary TOC.

- **Preparing sectoral overviews** – EC-LEDS continued developing sectoral overviews for LEDs chapters (energy, buildings, transport, and industry), including descriptions of the current situation in each sector, past trends and existing development goals, as well as the legislative base and institutional set-up per sector.

- **The survey of industrial plants is under process. However, the official letters from the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development are pending, which will facilitate access into some industrial plants.

- **The program is currently developing a preliminary list of mitigation action for LEDs analysis. The Program has facilitated several meetings with respective departments in the Ministries in order to include all strategically viable actions that are and under way. These included the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department in the Ministry of Energy, Transport Policy Department in the ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and Air Protection Department in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection.**