Q&A for April webinar Lighting University - Standardized Data for Building Smarter Cities

Q: Does this ISO standard also set the data measuring techniques and methodology such that the data can be truly compared apple to apple?

A: Yes. The ISO 37120 standard provides precise definitions and measurement methodologies for each ISO 37120 indicator, resulting in truly comparable, 'apples to apples' city data.

Q: What are the key measures considered to prevent accidents using lighting, do we have granularity of data standards

A: The ISO 37120 standard measures a number of public safety and traffic safety indicators, which creates the opportunity for assessing impacts of city-scale improvements in the quality of lighting. The new WCCD-Philips Lighting joint publication ('The Citywide Benefits of Smart & Connected Public Lighting - Assessed through WCCD ISO 37120 Data') also highlights some of the academic literature which examines in detail the contribution of improved lighting to preventing accidents.

Q: How can you measure my application in WCCD if I have a private system of city touch?

A: Achieving WCCD ISO 37120 certification involves cities and municipal governments measuring and reporting city-level data as per the ISO 37120 standard. While the reporting and certification is for the local government, it is important to note that solutions provided by the private sector (like CityTouch) can make an important positive contributions to the city's performance against key ISO 37120 indicators.

Q: Is New York City a participant in or contributing data to the WCCD?

Not yet, but we would of course welcome their involvement. There are a number of other major 'global' cities already part of the WCCD network – for example London, Shanghai, Los Angeles, Toronto, Amsterdam, Barcelona, and Dubai – so there is already a ready-made network of peer global cities for a city like New York reporting high-calibre, independently-verified data.

Q: How often do you refresh the information in the WCCD portal?

A: WCCD ISO 37120 Certified Cities report their data to the WCCD on an annual basis, in compliance with the ISO 37120 standard. Once certified by the WCCD, the data for the new reporting year is made available on the WCCD Open City Data Portal.

Q: What is the main driver of the cities involved in the ISO 37120? They have a big data system, they want to save energy?

A: There is no single main driver why cities are seeking WCCD ISO 37120 Certification – there are a whole range of benefits and applications from WCCD Certification. These include to:

- Monitor the efficiency of city service delivery and effectiveness of city policies and programs;

- Build frameworks for sustainability and resilience planning;

- Set data driven targets and data informed priorities for infrastructure investment;

- Monitor and evaluate the impacts of infrastructure investments on the overall performance of a city;

- Undertake local and international benchmarking; and draw on comparative lessons and share experiences with other cities; and

- Leverage funding and demonstrate responsible management practices to attract private investment, both domestic and foreign direct investment, and improve creditworthiness.

Q: Do WCCD also provide some certification for these ISO standards to professionals, who in turn can help understand coming smart cities' authorities and city to achieve these standards?

A: There is currently no certification system for professionals – the WCCD ISO 37120 Certification is for certification of cities and municipal governments. We are finding however that cities are seeking the support of qualified consultants and professionals to help them gather and report their data for achieving their WCCD ISO 37120 Certification.

Q: How does a city get involved with WCCD?

A: It is very easy for Cities to contact the WCCD if they are interested in becoming WCCD ISO 37120 Certified (through the WCCD website): http://www.dataforcities.org/connect-with-the-wccd

Q: Could you please tell us whether you are looking at data in the building energy renovation sector or at energy efficiency in general.

A: Energy is a key theme in the ISO 37120 standard and their several indicators relating to total and domestic energy use and the energy efficiency of public buildings.

Q: Does the definition of city include the whole metropolitan area or a strict city boundary limit?

A: The ISO 37120 standard defines the boundary as the administrative boundary of the city or local government. Where a metropolitan area includes multiple local governments, WCCD ISO 37120 Certification provides a valuable tool for aggregating comparable data to the metropolitan level.