

Energy Cities

No. 44 | Spring 2016

INFO

Wanted: A definition
for “community energy” p.5

Carbon credits: think local! p.7

Remunicipalisation:
why and how? p.10/11



energycities
WHERE ACTION & VISION MEET

www.energy-cities.eu

Three ingredients to achieve the energy transition: Democracy, Devolution and Divestment



Dear reader,

If you belong to the pessimists in this era of crises, let's try something new: step back, change your perspective and embrace the idea of a future in "3 Ds". First of all, "D" as in "**Democratise**". Not only are democratic values among the founding principles of European construction, they now can be given new impetus and meaning as part of the unfolding energy transition. Europeans are more likely to back institutions that empower them to decide on matters affecting their everyday lives. Indeed, what issue has more wide-ranging ramifications than the energy question, which affects the geopolitical developments of the world we live in and touches on all aspects of our daily routine? Although Europe has been outpaced by other major world powers as regards the growth of the renewable energy industry, it can embrace the noble objective of being number one in community and energy democracy.

Maroš Šefčovič himself, our Commissioner for the grand project of the Energy Union, recently quoted a Greek philosopher on his personal blog linking the energy revolution with the need for "a radical transformation of society's institutions". Indeed, the energy transition will not be fully successful without a profound shift in governance and a new institutional set-up. This basically sums up the second "D": the need to **Devolve** more competences to local authorities. The local level should be empowered in a system that is no longer fit for top-down decision-making.

As this transition requires crucial investments, the time is ripe to entirely reconsider the financial and economic framework that will underpin it and "**Divest**" energy funding to locally-rooted projects that support territorial resilience and cohesion.

Thousands of Energy Cities members across Europe are busy translating the three concepts into concrete, everyday actions. Get a glimpse of the ideas, places and people determined to drive this 3D revolution in this new issue of our annual Energy Cities INFO.

Eckart Würzner

Eckart Würzner, Mayor of Heidelberg, Germany, and President of Energy Cities



There are **1,250 energy cooperatives** in Europe.



Altogether they employ **over 1,000 people**.



They are driven by **300,000 citizens**.

coopseurope.coop 2016 Annual Report

CONTENTS

Interview with Carlos Moreno: Making the city "an open transformation platform"	p.3
On the way to energy democracy	p.4
A brief guide for cities: Three steps to create your fossil-fuel free investment portfolio.....	p.6
Carbon credits: Think local!	p.7
Devolve (to) [verb to be conjugated in the present to improve the future].....	p.9
How do cities take back control of their energy services?.....	p.11
Paris Climate Agreement – A race against the carbon clock?.....	p.12
Cities at the core of our European campaigns and projects.....	p.14
Publications: Energy Cities recommends.....	p.15
And you, what city of the future are you?.....	p.16



If you wish to receive this yearly magazine for free, please send a e-mail to: www.energy-cities.eu/miriam

Director of publication:
Miriam Eisermann

Contributors to this issue:
Alix Bolle, Floriane Cappelletti, David Donnerer and Miriam Eisermann.

Translation:
Nathalie Fauchadour

Graphic design:
www.tuttiquanti.net

Print office: SIMONGRAPHIC (Imprim'Vert)

Printed on recycled paper
N° ISSN: 1256-6098
Print run: 2,000 copies
Legal deposit: Spring 2016

Cover: www.tuttiquanti.net



Energy Cities | Main office
2, chemin de Palente
F - 25000 Besançon
Tel.: +33 381 65 36 80
Fax: +33 381 50 73 51

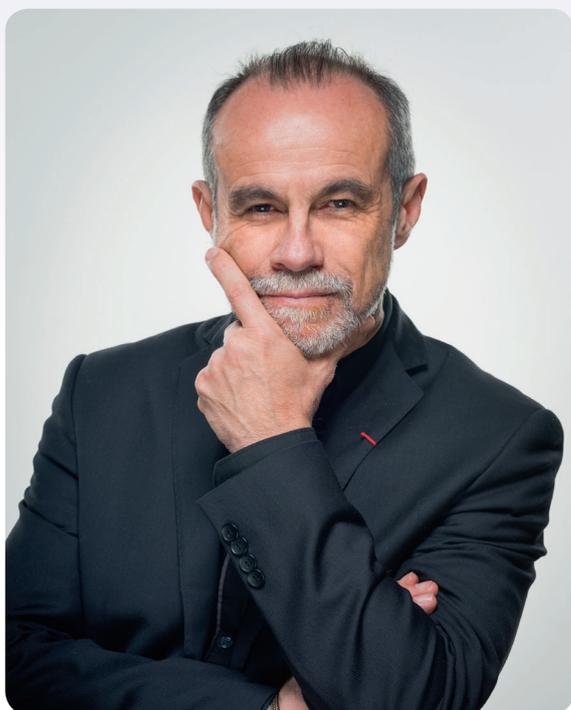
Energy Cities | Brussels office
Rue d'Arlon 63-65
B - 1040 Brussels
Tel.: +32 2400 1000

www.energy-cities.eu

Interview

Making the city “an open transformation platform”

Carlos Moreno is a Franco-Colombian university professor born in 1959. This humanist-scientist is renowned worldwide for his expertise of the “human smart city” concept.



Carlos Moreno

Energy Cities is promoting a transition that is not only technological, but primarily societal. What is your perception of energy democracy in a “smart” city?

Considering that a smart city could be created by developing highly technological solutions and that these solutions would be able to solve complex problems, without involving citizens, would lead us to a dead-end. Especially since today’s citizens have the technical resources to be kept informed and involved on a daily basis. Through

social media, it is possible to organise flash mobs of hundreds of thousands of people in just a few hours. This is how citizens can put strong pressure on elected representatives and, more generally, on national governments. You have to understand that these technologies are changing the relationship between citizens and governments and that governance and our approach to politics are changing too. There has clearly been a shift in traditional representative democracy. Giving meaning to the city in the era of energy transition, decentralised energy sources, new forms of mobility and short supply chains is, above all, a social fact. Without this integration effort - which

is today’s true priority – we run the risk of losing the support of citizens, which is indispensable for bringing about a fundamental change, because the essence of value lies in the uses, in the creation of social value, and not in the technology itself.

What main challenges will the mayors have to meet to achieve such a transition?

Around the globe, these urban areas must now deal with five main challenges if they want to meet the needs

and expectations of their inhabitants. These are environmental, economic, social, cultural and resilience challenges.

It is vital that a smart city project is built over the long term, longer than the mayor’s term of office. It is this continuity that will reinforce the shared project, the involvement of citizens and partners and the city’s identity. Another central element is the capacity to change our governance models.

“Giving meaning to the city in the era of energy transition [...] is, above all, a social fact.”

To move away from technical, mono-functional vertical models so that urban developments are devised in an integrated, global way. To make room for community initiatives, always bearing in

mind that the mayor is there to provide a vision, places limits on development and encourage the expression of life in the city, in its multiple forms, thus shaping the concept of an open, living and creative city.

To achieve their transition, cities must be able to rely on dynamic ecosystems. It is crucial that all stakeholders, along the entire value chain, converge to ensure construction over the long term. This is not just a fad: it is by extending them over time that we will be able to see the transformation potential of community contributions and that the city and all urban areas will become an open transformation platform.

🌐 www.liveinalivingcity.com

On the way to energy democracy

On the road away from Paris, the urge to accelerate the green transition of our energy system is no longer disputed. The technology is ready and the economic case is stronger than ever, with renewable energy becoming more competitive than fossil fuels in numerous regions of the world.

The time has come for communities to regain control over this essential component of their everyday lives. From Energy Cities' perspective, energy democracy is not only a question of shared ownership of projects and infrastructure, but also one of co-designing the post-carbon future, providing a greater say to local residents on the energy strategy of their territory. In this respect, global progress is still very timid, and a quick look at the second sentence of the Wikipedia entry on "energy planning" would make any community energy enthusiast feel gloomy: "Energy planning is often conducted within Governmental organisations

but may also be carried out by large energy companies *such as electric utilities or oil and gas producers*". Ouch! Departing from such a top-down, one-directional system, the road ahead will certainly be bumpy. But we are getting there!

Many Energy Cities members across Europe are helping their citizens rise to the challenge. Local authorities can indeed have several roles to play in this process, from initiators to facilitators and catalysts. While some help finding the available space and rooftops that can be used for energy systems, other sometimes co-invest in citizen-managed projects or support them with



the necessary expertise and know-how. But that's not all: energy democracy can take on an abundance of forms.



"The Energy Transition: New Dialogues Between Cities & Local Stakeholders"

Study available on Energy Cities' website: Resources > Publications
Price: €40, Free for Energy Cities' members

Members in the spotlight

"Adopt a panel" in Helsinki



Finland's largest solar power plant hosted on the roof of the Kivikko ski hall is owned by the city of Helsinki. As part of this project, the city utility, Helen Ltd, had the brilliant idea of inviting local residents to order their own designated panels, meaning they can benefit from solar energy without having to make large initial investments. The panels are rented for €4.40 per month and the electricity generated from them is then deducted from the customer's bill. First tested out in one district of the capital, where the utility had built another solar

plant, the panels were sold out within just a few days! Operational since April 2016, the plant has almost 3,000 solar panels, of which half have been ordered by citizens. Annual production is expected to reach about 700 megawatt-hours, equivalent to the yearly electricity consumption of about 350 one-bedroom apartments.

When asked why they decided to rent the PV panels instead of introducing a net metering system, the city utility project manager Atte Kallio replied: *"We asked our customers what they wanted and their answer was designated panels. [...] We have promised to build more solar plants for as long as there is a demand for them. [...] This way, our customers have a concrete impact on how electricity is generated in our country"*, she added.

🌐 www.helen.fi/en/news/2016/finlands-largest-solar-power-plant-is-near-completion

Members in the spotlight

Newcastle: From passive consumers to community buyers!

As civic energy is also about making the right consumer choices, the British city of Newcastle has launched a scheme to help its citizens become active energy players and at the same time benefit from cheaper and more efficient services. The local council has thus teamed up with the online switching service "iChoosr", which helps provide a more competitive deal to citizens through collective buying. The scheme, which is called "Big Community Switch", has helped hundreds of residents save an average £200 (ca. €260) every year on their gas and electricity bills. Central to this endeavour is also a wish to tackle the very worrying problem of fuel poverty in the city. Coupled with ambitious energy efficiency programmes, this initiative looks set to have promising results!

🌐 www.newcastle.gov.uk/news-story/scheme-launched-save-money-energy-bills

Members in the spotlight

Mulhouse: Five citizens take action to fight energy poverty!

In Mulhouse, France, five friends decided to create an association to tackle the dire situation of fuel poverty in their city, through more efficient use of resources and the concept of "homemade energy"! After finding out that a 20% variation in energy costs in the country could push 2.5 million households in or out of fuel poverty, they decided it was time to take action. With the support of the city council, they started flexing their 'citizen muscles' to relocate energy and founded the association "Mulhouse 100%": 100% for prosperity, with 100% of people having affordable access to energy. Mulhouse 100% was then renamed "Citizen energy", a very fitting name!

🌐 www.mulhouse100pour100.fr

Nottingham has its own "Robin Hood Energy"



Driven by a wish to tackle fuel poverty, Nottingham set up a not-for-profit energy supplier dubbed "Robin Hood Energy" in 2015, in reference to the famous legend of a local hero who stole from the rich to give to the poor. This city utility has since become a famous success story and the first of its kind in the UK. It challenges the monopoly of the "Big Six" energy companies and acts against declining levels of trust from citizens. The local utility notably uses energy generated from the city's incinerator, solar panels and waste food plants, and directly employs 30 people. Robin Hood Energy's first customers had their annual energy bill cut from £2,000 to £1,400 (€2,500 to €1,700)!

🌐 www.robinhoodenergy.co.uk

Wanted: A definition for "community energy"

For the European Commission 2016 will be "the year of delivery" for energy and climate policies. A lot of legislation is indeed undergoing a major facelift, including the directive on renewable energy, for which Energy Cities issued a position paper mostly centred on a call for more energy democracy and for Europe to become the world number one... in community energy! But what exactly is community energy?

Well, the Commission is also looking for an answer - as no single definition currently exists - and has mandated external experts to help them find it. As Energy Cities was among the

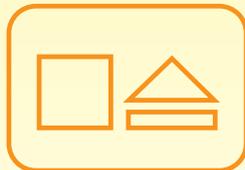
stakeholders consulted, we are happy to share with you our own definition.

Community energy is a new form of shared production and planning of our energy future, characterised by the socio-economic contributions it brings to society. Sometimes also called "civic", "shared" or "citizens'" energy – it is less a question of scale or ownership than one of shared, fair profits and collective decisions on the energy infrastructure shaping our territories. Contrary to the top-down model where a restricted number of large energy companies hold a monopoly over the energy system and profits are distributed to sometimes

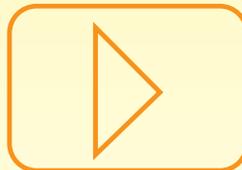
remote shareholders, community energy implies that the wealth created is fed back into the local economy. Community energy involves socialising and democratising the energy system, through joint procurement, investment or decision-making over saved or locally-generated renewable energy. Looking ahead, this definition should influence to what extent community projects will be entitled to benefit from state aid. In other words: the stakes are high, so stay tuned!

🌐 **Further details:**
www.energy-cities.eu >
Position Papers

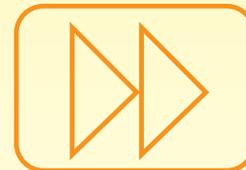
Divestment



DIVEST



REINVEST



SUGGEST

A large part of our financial system is currently underpinning unsustainable production and consumption patterns, intensive in carbon and natural resources. Making radical changes

by redirecting money flows is what the fossil fuel divestment campaign aims to do. It is gaining traction all around the world. The international 350.org platform already numbers

more than 1,000 local divestment initiatives, including several Energy Cities members like La Rochelle in France or Christchurch in New Zealand.

A brief guide for cities: Three steps to create your fossil-fuel free investment portfolio

1 Identify where city money has been placed and move it elsewhere

Identify the stocks (such as pension funds) your city directly or indirectly owns in fossil fuel holdings and sell them. End your administration's contracts with multinational banks which are heavily invested in fossil fuels. Their investments in fossil fuels are rapidly turning assets into liabilities. A study by the London School of Economics and the Carbon Tracker Initiative in 2013 has shown that fossil fuel companies are overvalued by 40-60%, as their billions Euros of investments in new coal plants are destined to become stranded assets in the local energy transition. On the gofossilfree.org website, you can find the top 200 oil, gas and coal companies that hold the lion's share of the world's fossil fuel reserves. Move all your bank accounts to local and/or community development banks to protect your investments and engage in climate action.

2 Spend money on sustainable and local projects

Public money should be reinvested in your territory and support the efforts of its residents, by helping them invest e.g. in the renovation of their homes or in small-scale renewable energy projects like PV panels or solar thermal systems. Invest in cooperatives and crowdfunded local energy projects, to support your communities and create new local jobs in your territory. If you still want to invest in stocks and mutual funds, consult your financial advisor to identify suitable fossil-free products.

3 Support and encourage others to divest

Once you have successfully completed your divestment from fossil fuels, engage with other stakeholders in your territory to help them do the same. Communicate widely about your strategy to remove investments from fossil fuels and polluting industries. Share your experiences with other local authorities, e.g. the members of the Energy Cities network, in order to catalyse divestment from fossil fuels in other regions of the world!



© Shutterstock.com / halley

Carbon credits: Think local!



One of the possible financial incentives to foster low-carbon economies is pricing carbon and regulating its quantity through a carbon emissions trading system (ETS). In the European Union, the current system launched in 2005 has generated revenues, but much less than expected for several reasons: the carbon price is hovering around a very low €5/t, and too many permits to pollute have been given away to high-carbon industries. In most European countries, local authorities and their citizens have not seen a cent from the ETS revenues. Instead, many carbon intensive industries have benefited from the over-subsiding of carbon pollution through the ETS. This is the case in Germany, where industries made a €4.5 billion profit between 2008 and 2014, according to a recent study by the environmental consultancy CE Delft and the Oeko-Institut.

Carbon impacts are strongly felt in urban areas, as air quality decreases and the environment suffers – not to mention the long-term consequences of climate change. It is an absolute necessity that revenues from ETS or carbon taxes benefit the local level, in order to absorb the social impact of carbon and boost the local energy transition.

The idea is somewhat new, but there are already flagship examples of how carbon credits can be invested locally. They are easily replicable and have already provided tangible benefits to cities.

Across the Atlantic: Reducing greenhouse gases boosts local economies

In the north-east of the United States, a regional emissions trading scheme has been operational since 2005, involving nine states. Their Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first market-based regulatory programme in the US to reduce GHG emissions. In 2013 for instance, \$1 billion (€900 million) in carbon revenues from the RGGI were invested in energy efficiency, renewables, support to low-income families to pay for their energy bills or GHG abatement. This has resulted in \$2.9 billion (€2.62 billion) lifetime energy savings for 3.7 million participating households and 17,800 businesses. Moreover, 3,700 workers have received training, e.g. in home retrofitting. In Rhode Island, 67 community and non-profit buildings have received comprehensive efficiency upgrades thanks to the RGGI revenues.

 www.rggi.org

Members in the spotlight

In Bucharest, CO₂ emissions serve for... CO₂ reduction measures!

The Romanian government spends around 70% of the income it receives from the EU ETS on climate action projects. Between 2013 and 2014, this accounted for €260 million. In the next four years, Romania expects to collect up to a further €2 billion from the system to lay the path towards a low-carbon and resilient economy.

Some of the carbon credits have helped Bucharest, the Romanian capital, pay for new bike lanes and metro improvements. Now, the city is home to 122 km of cycle paths and four metro lines with 45 stations. This number is bound to increase, as Bucharest wants to encourage its citizens to shift to clean transportation modes. Currently, only 1% of people in Bucharest use bikes and about 16% use the metro.

 <http://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/new-bike-lanes-and-metro-stations-bucharest-paid-carbon-credits>



Social and solidarity economy serving the energy transition



They are the drivers of a small-scale but growing economic revolution: companies dedicated to social and solidarity economy (SSE). Organised as cooperatives, mutual societies, associations or foundations, these companies are found in sectors like energy, social innovation, urban agriculture, self-help, social protection and health. Through their practices, values and local anchoring, SSE entrepreneurs implement

projects promoting a development model that is place-based and sustainable. Furthermore, they set the focus on a key dimension of the current energy transition: community involvement. From production to consumption, citizens are encouraged to become actors of the whole process. SSE is therefore a true example of economic democracy.

Some of the key principles of social and solidarity economy:

- Freedom of membership
- (Partially) not-for-profit
- Democratic management
- Collective/community work and social utility of the project
- Diversity of financing models.

What's up dock? Green and solidarity-based cycling in Brussels-Capital



The bike docking stations in Brussels-Capital Region and Wallonia are a great example of how to promote the combined use of bikes and public transportation while supporting social jobs. When looking for a

company to manage its bike parks, the Belgian Railway company SNCB realised that social businesses like the not-for-profit organisations Cyclo and Pro Velo, promoters of bicycle use, were the perfect match. Additional partners were the Brussels-Capital and Wallonia regions whose mobility and SSE-oriented policies were well-suited for the project. The deal has been successful: since 2007 in Brussels-Capital and 2010 in Wallonia, bike docking stations have been located close to the main train stations, offering parking and repair services. Welcoming around 19,000 customers every year, the stations now employ 38 people in Brussels-Capital (16 of them under a special integration contract).

🔊 More best practices at:
www.energy-cities.eu/citiesactions

Members in the spotlight

Lyon, France

The city of Lyon set itself the objective of creating a favourable environment for social and solidarity entrepreneurs. The city provides advice to project managers and organises networking sessions for SSE businesses. The city council also financially participates in the development of the sector and finances 15 projects every year. A local label, "*Lyon, ville équitable et durable*" ("fair and sustainable city"), was created in 2010 to support and increase the visibility of small businesses committed to supporting sustainable development.

Geneva, Switzerland

In Geneva, the social and solidarity sector has developed thanks to a dedicated chamber of commerce, the "*Chambre de l'économie sociale et solidaire*". It promotes the SSE approach and helps local actors find partners. The city also runs the project "Essaim" (swarm), which provides information and training to new entrepreneurs starting an SSE activity. Geneva City Council has also published a guide explaining the various steps for creating a new SSE company.

Devolve (to) [verb to be conjugated in the present to improve the future]

[I devolve...]

Devolution is the shift of competences for public services from central government to sub-national or quasi-independent organisations. These organisations enjoy varying degrees of autonomy and have their own budget.



[You devolve...]

In Scandinavian and federal countries, city councils are responsible for the energy supply of their territory. They have created local energy companies to do this job. Ideally, this encourages them to adopt a responsible attitude and generates revenues. In other countries, local authorities do not have this ability. This competence has always been a monopoly of the State, before becoming a private one in some countries. Local authorities sometimes own energy networks and are free to build district heating networks.

However, large energy companies drive the market and reap the benefits. In a city of 250,000 inhabitants,

the amount spent annually on heating, domestic hot water and electricity by households, the service industry and SMEs comes to around 250 million euros. Does this money go to Qatar, Russia or large industrial groups?

[He/She devolves...]

Innovation, the harnessing of local resources and the development of combined heat and power (CHP) are clearly encouraged in countries where cities have substantial competencies in the energy field.

For Energy Cities, devolution is a key success factor for the energy transition. Local authorities alone are capable of identifying and harnessing the many sources of local energy savings and local resources of renewable (geothermal energy, biomass, wind energy, solar energy, etc.) or recovered energy (waste energy from industrial processes, wastewater and waste). They also have the tools to support and involve citizens and local stakeholders. Decentralising the energy system would not only enable local authorities to keep the money spent on energy at home; it would also pave the way for fairer energy governance in which citizens would have a full role to play.

In a city of 250,000 inhabitants, the amount spent annually on energy comes to around 250 million euros. Does this money go to Qatar, Russia or large industrial groups?



[We achieve the energy transition.]



Re-municipalisation: Everything under (public) control?

Over the last 15 years, 235 cities in 37 countries have brought water services back under public control benefiting 100 million people. Paris, Naples, Berlin, Budapest... the list of European cities running their own water system is getting longer and longer. This

may be a model for other services: how about energy, an equally precious natural resource and essential service? Who owns it and who benefits from it most? The movement towards public ownership of urban services is a growing political trend, which reflects

the desire to strengthen energy democracy and resilience. However, establishing a municipal energy company is, in many countries, a pioneering step along a road full of challenges and controversies.

Definition

The concept of (re)municipalisation is broadly used to cover:

- the change from private to wholly-public ownership of assets or companies;
- the change from outsourcing (or contracting-out) of services to direct provision by a public authority;
- and the replacement of concessions or lease contracts by public management.

Why roll back privatisation?

There can be both ideological and practical reasons for municipalities and citizens to end private management of urban services: from a general refusal of corporate power to the desire for an entirely new, more local approach to generating and using energy.

Many city councils are looking into municipal energy supply as they are frustrated with the downsides of public-private partnerships. Profit-oriented, not always transparent management by a private company, poor investments despite high tariffs for customers, priority given to fossil fuels and little or no benefit-sharing with the local community are amongst the reasons why cities want to control the entire energy supply chain.

Decentralised energy, the “new normal” in Europe?

In several European countries (e.g. France, Germany, Switzerland, and Scandinavian countries) a range of municipal companies are operating. In Germany, according to a report by PSIRU in 2013, “between 2007 and mid-2012, over 60 new local public utilities (Stadtwerke) were set up and more than 190 concessions for energy distribution networks – the great majority of them electricity distribution networks – were returned into public hands. About two thirds of all German municipalities are considering buying

back both electricity generators and the distribution networks, including private shareholdings in some of the 850 Stadtwerke.” The country’s federal structure is certainly an advantage in this endeavour. In the UK, there is a trend for breaking up the “Big Six” – the six major international utilities operating in the country.

⑤ PSIRU (2013):
www.world-psi.org/sites/default/files/en_psiu_ppp_final_lux.pdf



Members in the spotlight

Munich's one-stop-shop for urban services



© Michael Nagy / Presse- und Informationsamt München

With its objective of reaching 100% green electricity by 2025, Munich is strongly supporting the government-driven energy transition. This city of 1.5 million inhabitants located in the very south of Germany has a long-standing tradition of municipal energy production and distribution. It was already promoting the use of renewable energy sources long before anybody talked about the *Energiewende*.

Today, a single company provides most of Munich's urban services: the SWM, Stadtwerke München, wholly owned by the city. With a EUR 9 billion plan, the Stadtwerke is not only investing in renewables in and outside of the city area, but also abroad.

When asked by Energy Cities INFO about SWM's priority for Munich and its citizens, Florian Bieberbach, CEO of what has become Germany's largest municipal utility, said: "For us, as a municipal company, our focus is on sus-

tainability and long-term benefits for the citizens instead of short-term profits or the return assumption of shareholders. The residents of Munich can enjoy Europe's best public transport service, spring-fresh drinking water from the foothills of the Alps, an energy supply that is based - as much as possible - on

renewables, as well as a state-of-the-art optical fibre grid."



© SWM/Andrii Hangan

Florian Bieberbach,
Director of Stadtwerke Munich



Did you know?

In Switzerland, local authorities have very often competences that cover the whole energy supply chain, from production to distribution. In Energy Cities Swiss member cities Martigny, Lausanne and Geneva, for example, energy supply is in the hands of the so-called "Industrial Services", respectively called Sinergy, SiL and SIG.

- ⑤ www.martigny.ch/ville-administration/energies-renouvelables.html
- ⑤ www.lausanne.ch/thematiques/services-industriels/les-sil.html
- ⑤ www.sig-ge.ch

Benefits of city-owned utilities

In those cities which have already gone down this path, remunicipalisation has provided clear benefits:

- It is a tool for economic regeneration of their areas;
- It helps people engage with energy, especially if they can have a financial share in local energy production;
- Profits can be invested in local long-term projects (e.g. energy efficiency measures in buildings or an efficient district heating system) or reinjected in measures benefiting low-income households (e.g. to tackle fuel poverty).

How do communities take back control of their energy services?

It is not an easy task to make the transition from a private to a city-run system. The circumstances leading to this move can vary greatly, be it dissatisfaction with the private services, new political priorities of the city council or pressure from civil society.

In Pamplona, a city of 196,000 inhabitants located in north-eastern Spain, the shift to renewable and decentralised energy has become a clear political objective since the elections in 2015. Armando Cuenca is the Urban Ecology and Mobility Councillor of Pamplona for Aranzadi, a political group supported by PODEMOS. In an interview with Energy Cities INFO he explained the “why” and the “how” of this foresighted decision.



Armando Cuenca
City Councillor in Pamplona, Spain

Why is Pamplona City Council pursuing a strategy towards remunicipalisation of the energy supply?

I believe that people and communities should have the right to control their energy future. Our main objective is to strengthen energy democracy through more transparency, more social justice, and empowering people to be more than just passive consumers.

Electricity supply should become a public service again, 100% based on renewables, directly connected to local private and public renewable production and contributing to tackling energy poverty.

What is the first step towards locally-managed energy? What measures did Pamplona City Council take after adopting the local strategy?

The first step is to make sure the project is viable. Therefore, it is necessary to launch a feasibility study covering the national energy market regulations and conditions, mapping electricity consumption in the city, estimating investments and operating costs, obtaining economic feedback, laying down the conditions for opening it up to private clients, etc. When the study conclusions are available, it is important to build synergies and collaboration within the City Council to create the local energy supply entity. It is also recommended to carry out an external assessment with energy supply experts. In the case of Pamplona, we engaged in a direct collaboration with green electricity cooperatives to support the development of the locally-owned company.

📄 www.energy-cities.eu/citiesactions >
Search the database > Pamplona (ES)

Paris Climate Agreement - A race against the carbon clock?



Six months have passed since the COP21 “climate climax” in Paris. As the international community agreed on a post-carbon future with a global warming threshold of a maximum 1.5°C, the question is no longer “whether”, but “when” the fossil fuel era will end. Since that so-called historic moment, cities have been wondering whether their feeling of having the power to change and shape the future is legitimate. International and national policies are still far from being synchronised with local players’ intentions. What is Europe doing to support local, sustainable solutions?

The new Covenant of Mayors “Capacity-sharing Corner”

The Covenant of Mayors has recently opened an online platform aiming at building and reinforcing the capacities of signatory cities to develop and implement their Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plans. Signatories can find resources and share theirs, as well as take part in discussions on various issues (buildings, mobility, citizen engagement...) and on country-specific forums.

🌐 www.eumayors.eu > My Covenant
 📧 info@eumayors.eu

While cities have stepped up their commitments by endorsing the new targets of the Covenant of Mayors, divesting from fossil fuel, banning construction to free up green space or mapping and tapping into their renewable potential, States seem to have forgotten their own commitments to the international climate agreement.

An analysis of 122 monitoring reports carried out by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre this spring shows that Covenant of Mayors signatory cities are well on track to achieve their 2020 targets. Based on the signatories’ action plans, the estimated levels by 2020 are expected to be:

- -28% CO₂ emissions
- -20% energy use
- +18% local/renewable energy.

For this success to last and the necessary systemic changes to be brought about quickly, the EU should make all of its policies fit for urban implementation.

Five measures to make the EU’s climate and energy strategy work:

- 1 Use the Energy Union to create a European decentralised energy system and thereby increase energy security
- 2 Unlock unconventional funding, like ETS (European Trading Scheme) revenues, to finance local climate action
- 3 Encourage national governments to engage in legislative reforms allowing for stronger mayoral powers and citizen participation
- 4 Drive urban policy-making, e.g. by making sure local action is included in national climate action plans (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, INDCs)

And, above all:

- 5 Take the COP21 agreement for what it is: a serious commitment to stop the carbon clock!

🌐 Check out Energy Cities’ latest position papers: www.energy-cities.eu > Position papers

A cities-focused IPCC report to support mitigation and adaptation actions in urban areas

Energy Cities met Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) one week after he was nominated, in October 2015. During the meeting, our President Eckart Würzner called to highlight the role of cities in the fight against climate change. The IPCC Chair answered positively adding that the social dimension of climate change should be a top priority.

This spring, Energy Cities endorsed the city-led call for a special cities-focused IPCC report. International climate diplomacy could draw on this document that clarifies the potential governance, policy and financial instruments to support mitigation and adaptation actions in urban areas.

🌐 www.ipcc.ch

Cities at the core of our European campaigns and projects

Every year the Energy Cities team prepares a series of bids for various EU funding programmes. Our project managers have experience in setting up project proposals within URBACT, INTERREG EUROPE, HORIZON 2020 and LIFE. Via the “My Energy Cities” space on the website, our members are the first to be informed about open calls, conditions for applying and links to useful documents and websites.

Snapshot of two of our latest project successes

Living Streets – LIFE programme

Living Streets is a real-life experiment whereby each year, for two months, residents can temporarily transform their street into the sustainable place they have always dreamed of. Each of these living labs explores a new urbanism with fewer cars and more social interaction.

Living Streets is not a story of individuals trying to make their own street car-free. It is the story of hundreds of citizens in dozens of streets. Together with stakeholders and municipal depart-

ments, they are exploring how local policy making and urban planning can ensure that all newly-paved streets and neighbourhoods are always designed as ‘living streets’, with the consent of all parts of society.

Partners: Energy Cities, City of Brussels (Belgium), City of La Rochelle (France), City of Zadar (Croatia), City of Milton Keynes (United Kingdom), City of Turin (Italy), City of Ivanič-Grad (Croatia), City of Rotterdam (The Netherlands).



Smarter Together – Horizon 2020 Smart Cities and Communities

Smarter Together aims at boosting the energy transition in urban areas by matching smart technologies with a new kind of governance. A special focus will be made on residential housing renovation, production and consumption of renewable energy, district heating, e-mobility and governance.

With its EUR 25 million budget and bold objectives for developing ICT solutions by 2020, the project brings together the European “lighthouse” cities Lyon, Munich and Vienna and the “fol-

lower” cities Santiago de Compostela, Sofia and Venice. A club of cities will be created to involve observer cities such as Kyiv and Yokohama as well as any other city interested in joining.

Additional input will come from business partners from the energy, mobility and ICT fields as well as leading European research and academic organisations. The Energy Cities network provides the European perspective and will help spread the results across Europe.

Contact us if you have a project idea or if you are looking for project partners. We will be happy to help you find the right partners for your consortium.

📞 All projects Energy Cities is involved in:
www.energy-cities.eu > Actions

Members in the spotlight

Sustainable mobility in Thessaloniki: Doing more with less

In Thessaloniki (Greece), many people travel around in private cars. Since the 1970s, mobility efforts have focused on car infrastructure. Despite an (extremely) unfavourable economic context, the urban community of Thessaloniki has decided to improve its transport system. The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, designed in cooperation with local stakeholders, has set out four main objectives: develop public transport, reduce car journeys in the city centre, encourage active modes of transport (walking, cycling, etc.) and reduce pollution. The Thessaloniki Mobility Plan has become a source of inspiration for other local authorities facing the same challenges.

📞 Learn more about the Thessaloniki Mobility Plan, as well as about over 500 city actions in our best practice database:
www.energy-cities.eu/citiesactions



Publications

Energy Cities recommends...

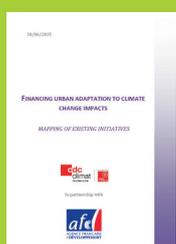


Social innovation in cities

URBACT, 2015

City administrations are facing a whole range of challenges on the social, environmental and economic fronts. New competences are being transferred from the national or regional levels while the budgets available to tackle them are shrinking. In this increasingly difficult context, social innovation is a new asset. Citizens are launching promising initiatives.

📄 <http://urbact.eu/capitalisation2015/catalogue/social/appli.html?summary=complex>

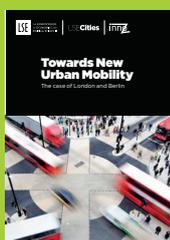


Financing urban adaptation to climate change impacts - Mapping of existing initiatives

CDC Climate Research and AfD (Claire Eschalié, Alexia LESEUR), 2015

This study by CDC Climate Research and the French Development Agency is a mapping of the initiatives for financing urban adaptation to climate change. Several key success factors for a city's access to funding sources are identified, among which liaising with international development stakeholders at the local level, and the identification of various co-benefits and synergies between the economic, environmental and climate impacts.

📄 www.i4ce.org/wp-core/?wpdmdl=9288



Towards New Urban Mobility: The case of London and Berlin

London School of Economics and

Political Science and the Innovation Centre for Mobility and Societal Change (InnoZ), 2015

This study provides insight into how urban transport policy can better leverage new and emerging mobility choices in cities. This report investigates how people's attitudes towards transport modes, technology and travel frames their willingness to adopt new and more sustainable forms of transport.

📄 http://eukn.eu/fileadmin/Files/EUKN_Documents/2016/New-Urban-Mobility-London-and-Berlin.pdf



Cities in Transition: Social Innovation for Europe's Urban Sustainability

Thomas Sauer,

Susanne Elsen, Cristina Garzillo, 2016

Cities in Transition focuses on the sustainability transitions initiated in 40 European cities. The book presents the incredible wealth of insights gathered through hundreds of interviews and questionnaires. Four key domains (local energy systems, local green spaces, local water systems and local labour markets) have been the focus of the field research investigating local potentials for social innovation and new forms of civil society self-organisation.

📄 www.routledge.com/products/9781138923874

The trendy word

Nature-based solutions

This approach helps making cities resilient to current and expected major changes: unsustainable urbanisation, degradation and loss of natural capital and the ecosystem services it provides (clean air, water and soil) and climate change. Applying nature-based solutions means using and mimicking the properties of natural ecosystems in integrated land planning and building in an 'engineered' way in order to improve and adapt to climate and energy constraints. Adaptive measures encompass green roofs (Malmö), increasing urban green spaces (Amsterdam, Manchester), ventilation corridors (Stuttgart), etc. Cities that are recreating a naturally oriented water cycle by bringing water management and green infrastructure together are called "Blue-Green Cities".



