



ENERGY **CITIES**

IMPACT

REPORT

2019

HOW ENERGY CITIES
ENERGISED POLICY,
PEOPLE & PLACES

FORWARD

2019 began with the launch of the Energy Cities manifesto 'Claiming a Crisis' and it ended with the launch of the European Green Deal. Those two events are related. In between people from every level of government and from around the world gathered in Heidelberg for the International Conference on Climate Action. Together, because we must always act together, all levels of government signed the Partnership Declaration on Collaborative Climate Action.

2020 opens a new era for cities and our urgent response to climate change. It is also the end of a previous era. Declarations of climate action have been written and signed, climate emergencies have been issued, people have taken to the streets like never before – calling for a change in the way we live, in the places we live and the rules under which we live. 2020 is the beginning of a new era in which we deliver on those demands with greater urgency than ever before.

2020 is also the 30th anniversary of Energy Cities. Founded in the run-up to the Rio Summit and just after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Astonishing change has occurred in the last three decades as the network has grown to include hundreds of cities in 30 countries. 30 years is an important milestone and the halfway point to net zero by 2050. The changes we will see in the next 30 years should be even more astonishing.

City and citizen partnerships are the bedrock of change. They are an unstoppable force in delivering on climate action although much more needs to be done. The welcome ambitions coming from national and European leaders need to be matched with the necessary resources and policy changes. This allows cities to transform themselves into the places that our people want them to be. This isn't just about money, it's about working as an equal party with regional, national and European levels of government, our citizens and our broader communities in thousands of Climate Pacts across Europe.

That is how the members of Energy Cities are transforming our cities, our economies and our future, together.

#SHOWSHARESHAKE

WELCOME TO THE ENERGY CITIES IMPACT REPORT FOR 2019, A YEAR WHEN THE MEMBERS OF ENERGY CITIES STEPPED TO THE FORE TO "SHOW, SHARE AND SHAKE" IDEAS, PROJECTS AND PLANS ABOUT HOW TO BUILD A BETTER CITY FOR PEOPLE. THIS REPORT IS NOT ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE, IT IS ABOUT THE IMPACT WE HAVE HAD ON THE PEOPLE, PLACES AND POLICIES THAT DETERMINE HOW WE LIVE.

So in this report
YOU WILL NOT FIND

- All the projects we are active in; all the inspiring places we have been invited to present the energy transition; all great partners we are working with; we can only give you a snapshot of the main highlights.
- Metrics of web visits, number of pages we read, retweets, number of beers with decision-makers and other measurements of our activities: too many figures kill the debate.
- The full description of our talented and committed team: you can find this on our website.
- Briefings on major EU policy developments and trends: these are provided in our regular newsletter and website.

YOU WILL FIND

- What we achieved by influencing decision-makers and how we did it
- The stories from the people in our community
- The places across Europe that set best practices and embrace the energy transition
- What's next: Main milestones of 2020 and how to get involved.

7

SHOW

*The people & cities
that drive the work
we do*

10

SHARE

*Places are changing
in inspiring ways.*

14

SHAKE

*Policy rules
for cities and people
to further a shared
energy transition*

16

2020

*Exciting times make
for busy schedules*

S
T
I
L
L
C
O
N
T
I
N
I
N
G



SHOW

PEOPLE
AND CITIES
THAT DRIVE
THE WORK
WE DO

People are what make cities worth living in and they are what makes Energy Cities so successful.

City and citizens partnerships continue to be the bedrock of change and an unstoppable force. 2019 saw the launch of the TOMORROW Project where six pilot cities will develop their transition roadmaps together with their citizens and stakeholders. They are guided by 'lighthouse' cities whose own experience will smooth their path. TOMORROW will produce a set of factsheets and methodological guidelines to be used by other European cities who want to develop innovative engagement processes.

<https://energy-cities.eu/project/tomorrow/>

PARTNERS

Drift, City of Braşov, Brest Métropole, CODEMA - Local energy agency of Dublin, City of Mouscron, City of Niš, City of Valencia.

LIGHTHOUSE CITIES

Växjö (SE), Göteborg (SE), Nantes (FR), Paris (FR), Leuven (BE), Ghent (BE) and more.

In May, hundreds of mayors from across Europe signed our joint letter to European leaders calling for a net-zero Europe by 2050 and stronger targets in between. And the mayors were heard: Over 70 articles in 14 countries reported on the letter, including the Financial Times. In July, Ursula von der Leyen announced that, as President of the European Commission, she would adopt the goal for Europe – a stunning testament to the power of Europe’s mayors and the numerous civil society groups calling for greater ambition.

<https://energy-cities.eu/unprecedented-show-of-ambition-from-mayors-across-europe-on-a-shared-energy-transition/>



Joining forces with like-minded people and organisations brought other benefits to the energy transition in 2019. As part of the ‘Fossil-fuel Free EIB’ campaign, our network was able to achieve one of its first manifesto wins: in November, the bank announced that it will phase out fossil fuel lending from 2021. This will free up billions to be invested in renewable energy in our cities and is a major milestone that is inspiring other development banks worldwide to reconsider their business.

<https://energy-cities.eu/5-takeaways-from-the-eibs-new-energy-lending-policy/>

SUCCESS STORIES ARE THE BEST WAY TO CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE.

We launched two different initiatives in 2019 to share stories from the larger Energy Communities community.

— As of this year, our network’s ‘City Stories’ podcast brings you regular one on one, personal interviews from people building the shared energy transition in cities across Europe.

<https://soundcloud.com/energy-cities>



Alba del Campo, Cadix

To reach the unusual suspects we have to design different ways of participation.



Sofie Verhoeven, Ghent

The magic of trial-and-error to empower citizens.

— In the same spirit, “Inspiring Minds” is a collection of interviews with the men and women working in cities, energy and related fields about what they have learned, what gives them hope and what they think the future might have in store for cities in transition. You can find both the podcasts and written interviews regularly updated on our website.

<https://energy-cities.eu/inspiring-minds/>

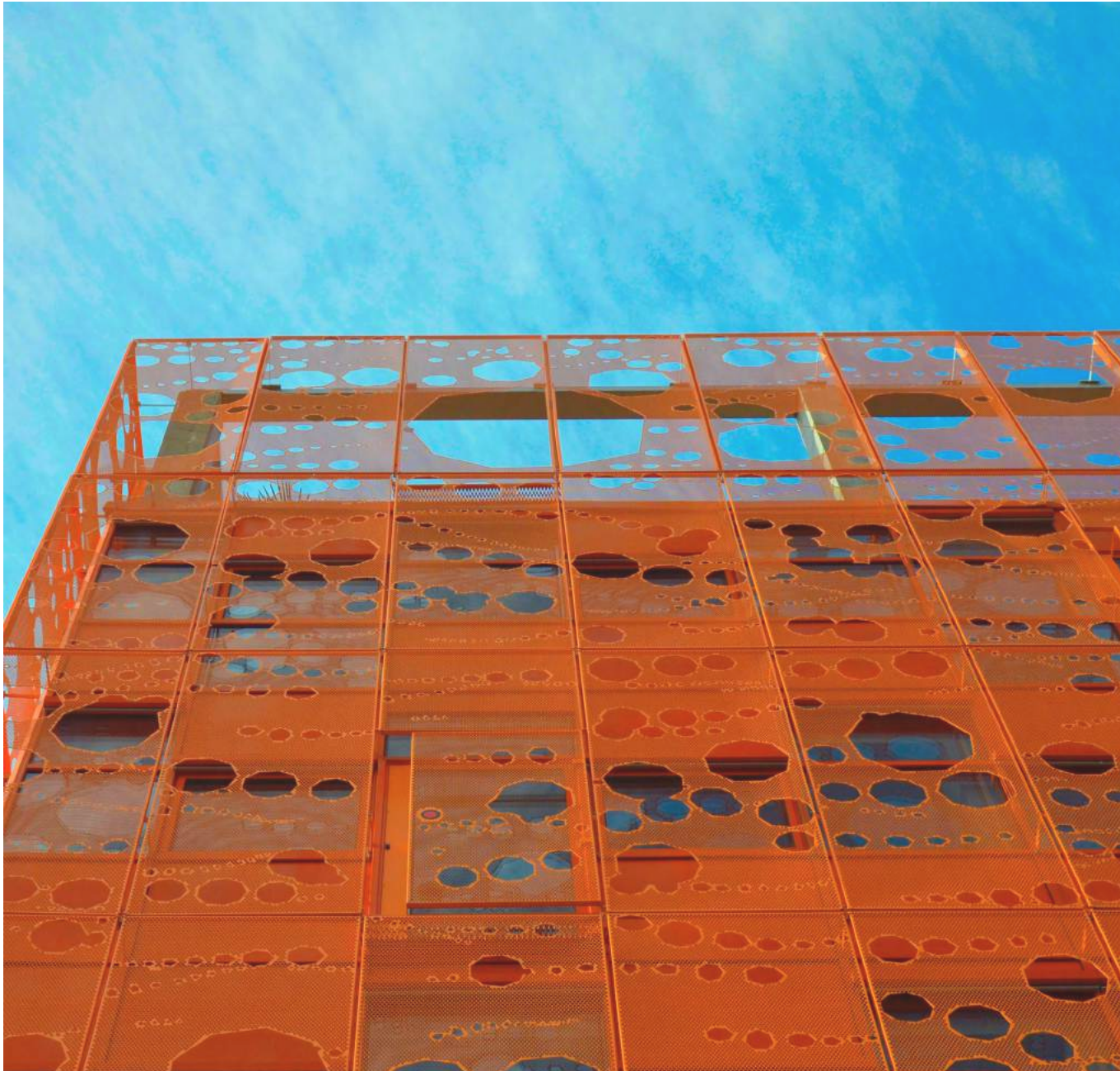
Speaking of the website, we revamped our website completely in 2019 and also launched a new logo. The new website helps us better share your stories and communicate with our community and the energised logo reflects the dynamism we are bringing to this new era.

SHARE

PLACES
ARE CHANGING
IN INSPIRING
WAYS

Places are constantly changing. Energy Cities has been fortunate to work with countless members in changing their cities for the better. The following are just brief glimpses of change but rest assured the changes go further, faster and deeper than this overview.





With the peer-to-peer learning programme mPower, at least 100 local authorities will learn about local energy ownership. mPower explores how cities and citizens can manage the energy transition together - in a fair, clean and democratic way. Frederikshavn, Denmark, to name just one of the many cities involved, plans to use only renewable energy by 2030 and is already embracing biomass, wave energy, solar, wind and district heating in significant quantities. They are sharing their lessons from the energy transition and learning from other cities that are also pushing boundaries.

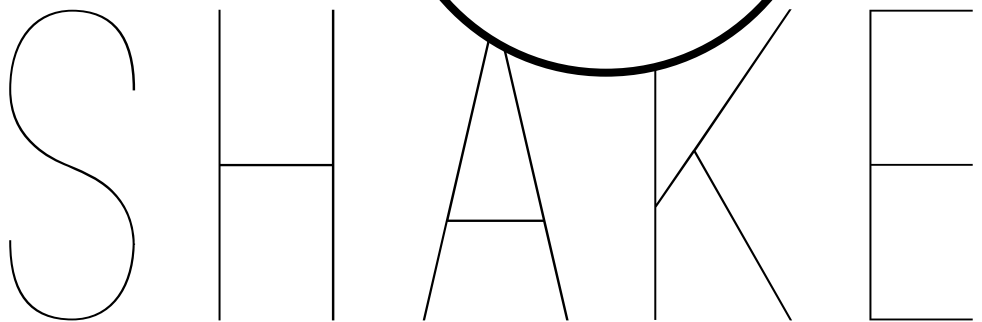
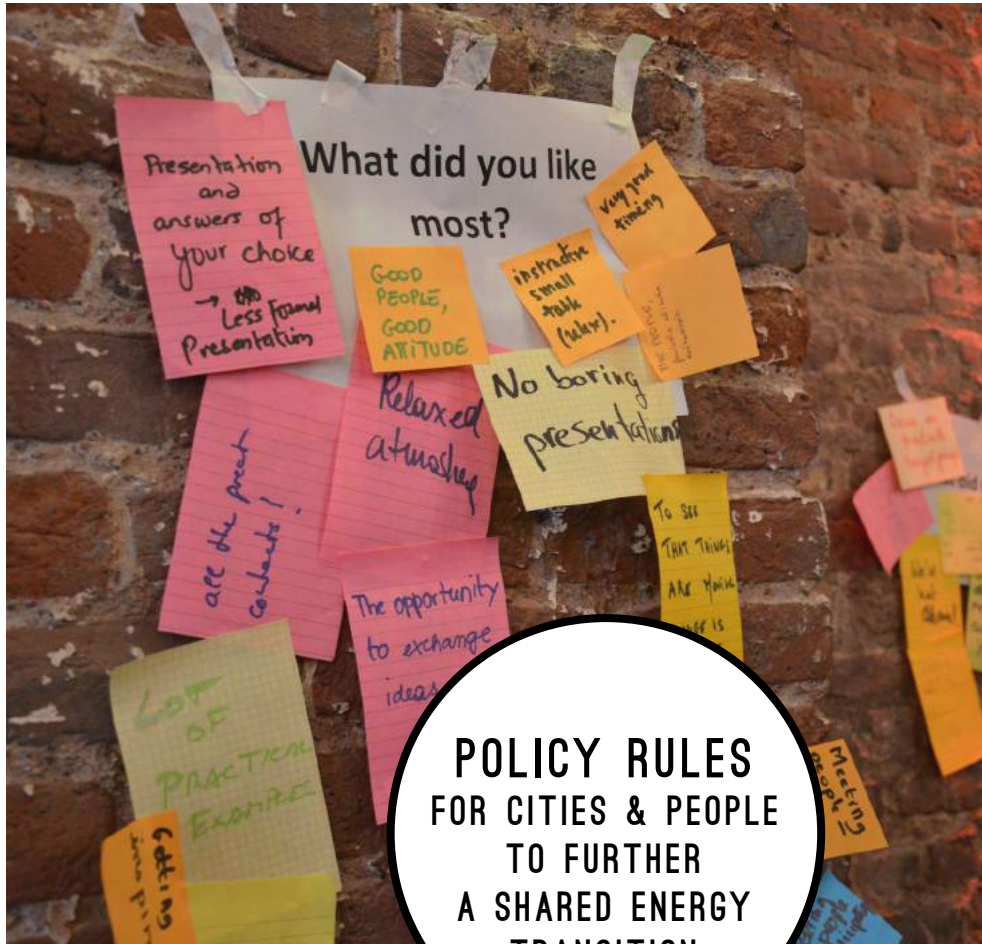
<https://energy-cities.eu/project/mpower-municipal-action-public-engagement-and-routes-towards-energy-transition/>

Lyon Confluence, the area of Lyon where the Saône and Rhône rivers meet, is one of the largest urban redevelopment projects in France covering 1,000,000 m² of new buildings and 600,000m² of existing floor space. Driven by the Smarter Together project, a massive refurbishment of dwellings, development of local renewable energy and promotion of shared e-mobility are underway. The city is also incorporating a clear role for data to ensure the project monitors, learns and improves with time. What's most exciting is that this massive place-changing will be followed in detail by Venice, Sofia and Santiago de Compostela so that lessons can be shared and implemented as quickly as possible.

<https://energy-cities.eu/project/smarter-together/>

Some place changes are obvious, a new tramline or PV panels on buildings, but change is buried with District Heating. Six 4th generation district heating and cooling 'Living Labs' will be efficiently spreading ideas, best practices and warmth in cities across Europe thanks to the Heatnet project. It is estimated Heatnet will save 15,000 t CO₂e by the end of the project. Crucially it brings DHC to countries where it is new and it recycles waste heat (think data centres) as its primary heat source. Most people in a city will never see the work that goes into DHC but they will certainly feel it!

<https://energy-cities.eu/project/heatnet-nwe/>



Policy is a vital part of city building. The correct policy rules allow cities to better achieve their potential in the energy transition. That's why Energy Cities is constantly showing decision-makers in Brussels what cities need, and what they can achieve, with the best regulations.

BECAUSE IN THE END, IT IS CITIES THAT ARE DELIVERING THE ENERGY TRANSITION.

As the voice of cities in Brussels, it is vital that Energy Cities shakes up business as usual.

2019 began with the launch of our manifesto, 'Claiming a Crisis' and it ended with the announcement of the Green Deal. In between, Energy Cities logged countless meetings, briefing documents, letters and presentations to appreciative, sceptical and hostile audiences.

<https://energy-cities.eu/policy/2019-eu-elections-our-manifesto/>

Divided into 'Quick Wins' and longer-term 'Legacy

building' initiatives we are delighted that 75% of our manifesto asks have already been largely successful.

The European Investment Bank announced its divestment from fossil fuel projects from 2021 – a major milestone in levelling the playing field for decarbonised and decentralised energy.

The Covenant of Mayors is set to take a prominent role in the upcoming 'Climate Pact' as a foundation upon which the energy transition will be implemented. The 'Climate Pact' is about the sociological side of the energy transition and instilling a culture of environmentalism in all aspects of society.

The EU Just Transition Fund has become a centrepiece of the Green Deal. It is one of the main mechanisms for ensuring that carbon-dependent cities and regions can grow and enjoy the bounties of a low-impact economy.

In policy, timing is crucial. So too is having unfettered access to high-level individuals who set the agenda. Energy Cities was delighted to host DG Energy's Director General, Ditte Juul Jørgensen, at our board meeting in October. Board President and Lord Mayor Prof. Dr. Eckart Würzner of Heidelberg explained the issues facing progressive, ambitious cities with support and key examples from the other board members. Ms. Jørgensen had only recently taken on the role and this was an important opportunity to ensure city concerns were front and centre as she moulded DG Energy's priorities in the years to come.

Too often EU projects have an administrative burden so high that excludes all but the best-resourced cities. Now, cities can apply to use EU funds to develop their own skills and project plans. The EU City Facility provides vital funds for project development assistance to cities when the first calls come out in the summer of 2020. It kick-started in 2019. Cities will also benefit from the support of a national expert, to engage with the financial sector, EU and member state funding streams.

2020

EXCITING TIMES MAKE FOR BUSY SCHEDULES

If 2020 really is a new era, it is off to an energetic beginning. The Green Deal is a prominent part of the agenda in Europe. Learn how it impacts your city out our rescheduled annual conference in Heerlen, the Netherlands September 15th-17th.

JANUARY

14TH

The initial proposal for the Just Transition Fund – the €1 trillion fund based on just €7.5 billion in new funding.

FEBRUARY

18TH-19TH

Covenant of Mayors Investment Forum – The Energy Efficiency Finance Marketplace.

24TH-25TH

DeCarb Cities Conference in Vienna, Austria – Present the technical and organizational solutions for cities to replace coal, oil and gas and improve air quality, reduce heat island effects, and drastically reduce GHG emissions.
<http://decarbciities.eu/>

SPRING

— ‘Farm to Fork’ Strategy – This should help align the need for fresh produce in cities with the ability of cities to grow food and nearby rural producers.

SUMMER

— Strategy for smart sector integration – A review of the TEN-E Regulation to enable and deploy smart grids, hydrogen networks or carbon capture, storage and utilisation, energy storage, also enabling sector integration.

— Comprehensive plan to increase the EU 2030 climate target to at least 50% and towards 55% in a responsible way.

SEPTEMBER

15TH-17TH

Energy Cities’ Annual Conference in Heerlen, NL – The Cities and Citizen Energy Forum – Register now!
<https://forum.energy-cities.eu/>

— ‘Renovation wave’ initiative for the building sector

OCTOBER

— Sustainable Finance Action Plan – Mobilising private sector financing by better identifying green investments, clear labels for retail investments and an EU green bond standard.

NOVEMBER

9TH-19TH

UNFCCC CoP 26 in Glasgow, UK

OTHER EU INITIATIVES EXPECTED AT SOME POINT IN 2020 AND BEYOND

— Proposal for legislative waste reforms

— Funding call to support deployment of public recharging points

— Screening and benchmarking green budgeting practices of Member States and the EU

THE FRENETIC PACE OF 2020
HAS REPLACED THE WHIRLWIND
OF 2019. BUT WE HOPE THIS
DOCUMENT PROVIDES A USEFUL
RECAP OF SOME OF THE
MOMENTOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SHOWING, SHARING AND SHAKING
THE WORK AT ENERGY CITIES.

WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT
THE FUTURE WILL HOLD,
BUT THE INSPIRING WORK
OF ENERGY CITIES' MEMBERS
CONTINUES TO LIGHT THE WAY
TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

THANK YOU.



Main Office
2 chemin de Palente
FR - 25000 BESANÇON

Brussels Office
Rue d'Arlon 63-65
BE - 1040 BRUSSELS

www.energy-cities.eu
info@energy-cities.eu
+33 381 65 36 80

Find Energy Cities
on Facebook & Twitter
[@energycities](https://www.facebook.com/energycities)