



Co-designing energy services with/for vulnerable communities

Transition leaders programme

21 April 2022, 10:30-12:00

Hosted by City of Brussels (Belgium) at KBR Museum, Mont des Arts 28, Brussels, Belgium

(This is part of the Energy Cities Annual Forum – [see full programme](#))

Room “Salle des Journaux”

Energy is a precious good that can't be taken for granted by all of us. So how can we protect the most vulnerable and how can we shape a fair energy system? This session will focus on different ways to tackle energy poverty and to make sure energy services fit the needs of those who are often marginalized.



Audience: Cities, cooperatives, civil society groups, co-owner associations, solar PV federations, green electricity suppliers, public companies (district heating etc.), SMEs, climate groups



Thursday 21 April 2022

Co-designing energy services with/for vulnerable communities

10:30-10:40	Introduction to the theme and sharing of some key new guides Miriam Eisermann– Energy Cities Laura Williams – Carbon Coop
10:40-11:00	Use your smart brain to share and ponder potential data and digital tool dilemmas DATA AND DIGITAL TOOLS Good data can support better decision-making and be a force of change. In this capacity building session we will discuss how that can help cities and their local stakeholders become not only smarter, but also provide fairer places. 5-minute pitch by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pau Balcells, Municipal Data Office at Barcelona City Council Followed by facilitated Q&A plus opinions and experience sharing from participants
11:00-11:25	Get down to business to debate specific models that support the vulnerable BUSINESS MODELS Local governments and cooperatives need to combine their social and environmental mission. Many of them are seeking for new ways of tapping into the local energy potential while tackling energy poverty. Let's discover existing financially viable business models with which an organization can provide energy services in an equitable and sustainable way. 5-minute pitch by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hugo Weisbecker, Energie solidaires Jan De Pauw, Ecopower Followed by facilitated Q&A plus opinions and experience sharing from participants
11:25-11:50	Critique and discover some cutting-edge engagement strategies ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES Inclusivity is a key word when it comes to providing energy services. People who struggle with having a comfortable home, paying their bill or treating energy poverty related diseases are rarely involved in citizen energy initiatives. Why is that so and how can we make it easier for everybody to not only access clean and renewable energy but also play an active part in finding solutions? 5-minute pitch by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giovanna Speciale, South East London Community Energy (SELCE) Paula Damaska - ZEZ Followed by facilitated Q&A plus opinions and experience sharing from participants
11:50 – 12:00	Final summary – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britt Jurgensen, Carbon Co-op Ian Turner, Energy Cities
12:00	Break

Contacts**Energy Cities**
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Electrification of rural areas of Croatia using renewable energy sources

-Digital photo exhibition-



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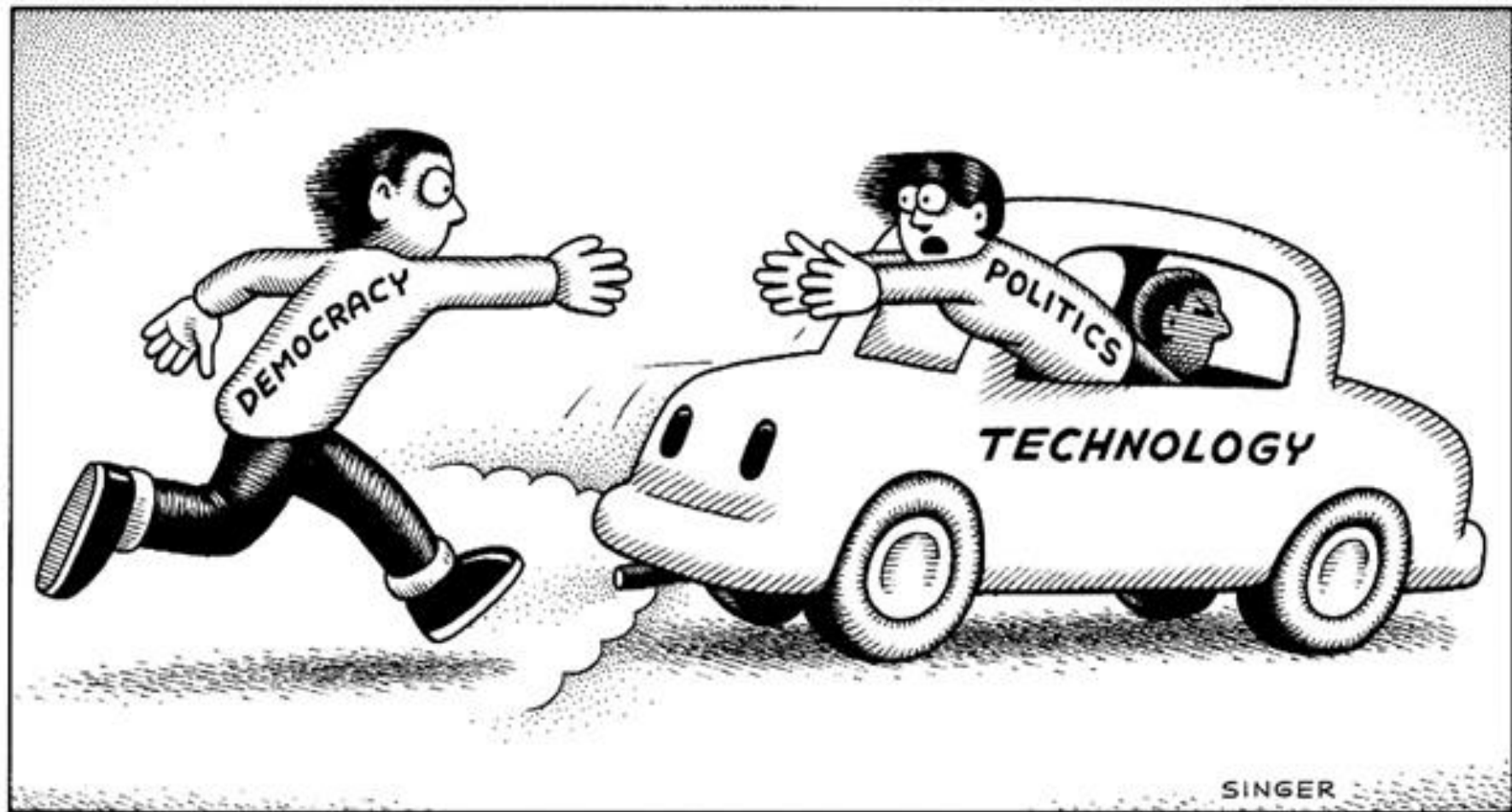
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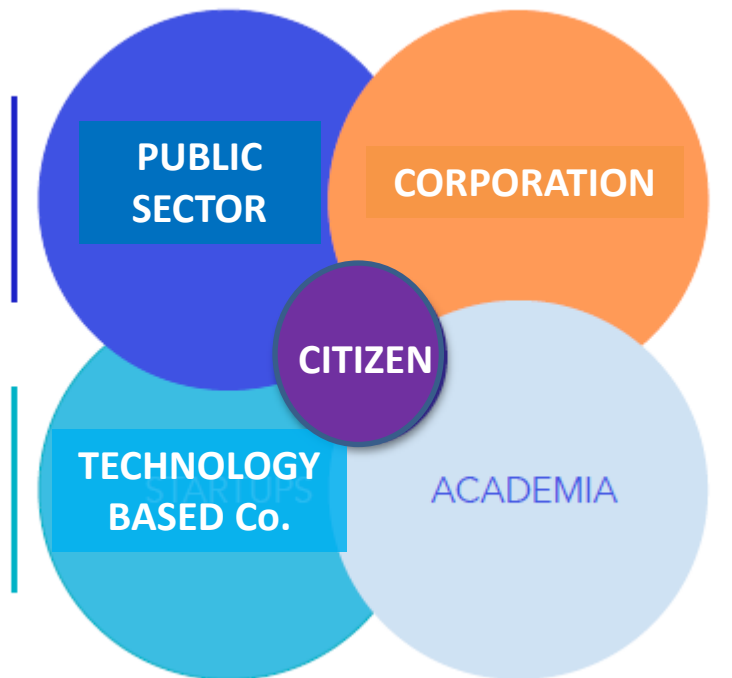








Impacte



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**If I can't dance, I don't want to be
part of your revolution.**

- Emma Goldman -

If your energy revolution leaves
people behind we want no part in it

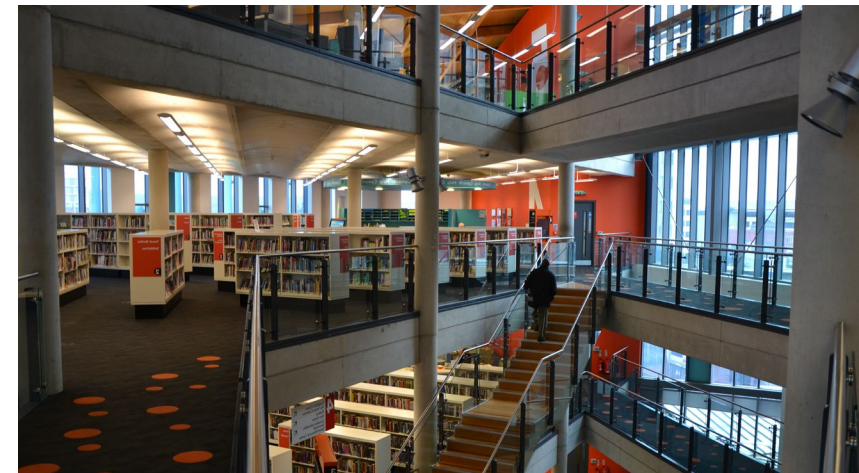
Giovanna Speciale

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Notes: Co-designing energy services with/for vulnerable communities.

Hub 3: Transition leaders' program

Ian: opening

- Introduction to session

Miriam:

- Language is important: focus on vulnerable communities, not vulnerable people – change in language
- Introduction to Suzanne – need to decide solutions with people, that benefit people and being co-designed
- Three key topics
 - Data and digital tools
 - Business models
 - Engagement Strategies
- As part of POWER UP

Data and digital tools

Pau BALCELS – Municipal Data office at the Barcelona city council

- Facing a time where technology is moving faster than public sector
 - Gap getting bigger
- Connected to energy challenges: impacts of technology on the environment
- Safe use of data
- Inequity: digital services create greater gap in technical services
- Gap puts risk to democracy
- Big corporations: data as the new oil
 - Barcelona has new approach: data as the new soil
 - Data to produce knowledge
 - Open source projects and data
 - Give the opportunity to grow
 - Question to address: trust
 - Who do we trust with our data?
 - How to address these issues of trust
 - Building trust to submit data for knowledge
 - Collaborations: Public Sector, Corporations, Technology Based Co, Academia, with citizens in the middle
 - How to produce energy in public spaces, for producing energy and positively impact vulnerable people
 - Finding data for these projects
- **Question: Would you be happy to freely donate data for the public good? Or do you prefer to have the private sector handle the data and give you a discount at the end of the month?**
 - (discussion on question in small groups)
 - No consensus – Split opinions

Business Models

Jan de Pauw - Ecopower

- Ecopower as a business model: Members are owners of installation
 - Decides prices as community
 - 30 to 40 percent cheaper
 - Does not follow market prices
 - Not a commercial activity, but a service to the citizens
- **Question: how can we reach vulnerable households and convince them to participate?**

Hugo Wiesbecker: Energie Solidaire

- Issues with funding for community projects or innovate
- Energie Solidaire: create source of funding for energy projects
- Energy transition can not be complete without tackling energy poverty
 - Donating money through energy bill that goes to energy Solidaire
 - Access of production is also used to support energy Solidaire
 - Direct donation
- Cross funding to support vulnerable groups
- **Question: What mechanisms can you put in place to help local initiatives tackle energy poverty?**

Engagement Strategies

Giovanna Speciale : South East London community energy

- The neighbourhood in south east London is diverse and full of inequity.
- Need to address inequities in order to tackle energy transition
 - Value system of inclusion
- Services centred around alleviating fuel poverty
- Get surplus from solar and works with donations
- Very focused on outreach: most important part
- **Question: What kind of people are most at risk for energy poverty in your community and what can you do to reach them?**

Paula: Croatia

- Tackling energy poverty on national level in Croatia
 - Talk to general public
- Rural electrification
 - Off grid systems to houses in rural areas
- **Question: In context of low trust levels towards the government how would you propose to build the trust of vulnerable households towards an energy COP/NGO trying to alleviate energy poverty?**

