



Workshop “Towards a sustainable Clean Energy Transition in Cities: technical and societal perspectives”

Jointly organized by EERA Joint Programmes e3s and Smart Cities

Vienna, 10th October 2025 | Hosted by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Across Europe, cities are playing a central role in driving the transition toward climate neutrality and long-term sustainability. Supported by flagship EU initiatives such as the European Green Deal, the New European Bauhaus, and the Horizon Europe Mission for 100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030, urban areas are becoming key testbeds for systemic innovation in energy, mobility, governance, and the built environment.

However, with cities accounting for around 75% of global energy use and 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, the path to a clean energy future is complex. Urban environments face intertwined technical, social, and governance challenges—from aging infrastructure and limited space to socio-economic inequalities and fragmented policy frameworks.

The **workshop “Towards a Sustainable Clean Energy Transition in Cities: Technical and Societal Perspectives”** offers a platform to **explore** these **challenges and opportunities** through an **interdisciplinary lens**. By fostering dialogue between the energy sector, urban planners, and the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) communities, the workshop **aims to build a shared understanding of the systemic changes needed**. It highlights the importance of **integrating technological innovation with social inclusion** to co-create actionable, equitable, and scalable solutions for cities across Europe.

AGENDA

Date: 10 October 2025

Time: 9:00 – 17:30

Location: Nordbahnsaal, Die Hauswirtschaft, Bruno-Marek-Allee 5/1, 1020 Vienna, Austria

9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9.30 – 9.45	Welcome greetings from AIT	Manfred Paier Scientist, <i>Center for Innovation Systems & Policy, AIT</i> Ghazal Etminan Senior Research Engineer, <i>Center for Digital Safety & Security, AIT</i>
9.45 – 10.10	Introduction from EERA JP e3s & Smart Cities	Alessandro Sciuolo EERA JP e3s coordinator, <i>University of Turin</i> Sonia Giovinazzi



		EERA JP Smart Cities coordinator, ENEA
10:10 – 10:30	Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Neutral Urban Development	Hans Martin Neumann Urban Development Director, City of Linz
Coffee Break (30')		
Plenary session: Strategies for Clean Energy Transition in Cities Presentations & panel discussion Chair of the session: Ayşen Sivrikaya (Hacettepe University)		
11.00 – 11.45	Ravenna's virtual Positive Energy District: a model for energy transition in port cities	Michela Pirro ENEA
	Systemic transformation of the mobility sector: a legal perspective on urban public policies in France and the EU	Louise Leray CEA I-TÉSÉ
	Citizen-empowering PED strategy – case report from Austria	Yilmaz Vurucu Wonderland
	New Mobility Habits and Urban Sustainability: A Systemic Approach to Energy-Conscious Planning	Roberta Roberto ENEA
	Public-Private Partnerships for Climate-Neutral Urban Development: Case Studies from Three European Cities	Barbora Hejtmanková Czech Technical University
11.45 – 12.30	Panel discussion	
Lunch break (60')		
13.30 – 13.50	Mission Climate-neutral city: Implementing the EU Cities mission in Austria	Anna Wang BMIMI
Plenary session: Approaches and methodologies for Clean Energy Transition in Cities Presentations & panel discussion Chair of the session: Ali Hainoun (AIT)		
13.50 – 14.30	Justice and equity in the climate plans of 112 Italian cities	Monica Salvia CNR
	Climate-Informed Grid Management: A Danish Model for Renewable Energy Transitions	Tatiana Ferrari DTU
	Urban-Scale Techno-economic Assessment Using UBE and Simulations: A Methodology for Cost-effective Energy Renovation Planning	Ipek Gürsel Dino METU
	An open-source framework for the optimal design and operation of renewable energy communities	Marios Karmellos The Cyprus Institute
	Development of an UrbanWeGeneration Model to guide Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Transition	Vicky Albert-Seifried Fraunhofer ISE
	Virtual PED Labs: Emerging Framework for the Conceptualization, Implementation, and Scalability of Positive Energy Districts	Jelena Brajkovic University of Belgrade
14.30 – 15.15	Panel discussion	
Coffee Break (30')		
15.45 – 16.30	Parallel session: Case studies for Clean Energy Transition in Cities Presentations & panel discussion Chair of the session: Monica Salvia (CNR)	Parallel session: Technological Solutions for Clean Energy Transition in Cities Presentations & panel discussion



		Chair of the session: Paola Clerici Maestosi (ENEA)
	<p>A participatory approach for imagining Territorial Hydrogen Futures in the South Tyrol's energy mix</p> <p>Federica Viganò <i>University of Bolzano</i></p>	<p>Techno-economic analysis of solar power systems and energy storage deployment in Western African Power Pool</p> <p>Xiaojing Lin <i>University of Groningen</i></p>
	<p>Achieving Holistic Energy, Digital and Resilience Transition in Villages and Small Cities: The Open Blue-Sky Lab in Pitigliano, Tuscany (Italy)</p> <p>Sonia Giovinazzi <i>ENEA</i></p>	
	<p>Climate Positive Circular Communities and Sustainable Plus-Energy Neighborhoods: From Vision to Reality</p> <p>Niki Gaitani <i>NTNU</i></p>	<p>DHOMUS: Empowering Renewable Energy Communities Through Smart Monitoring and User Engagement.</p> <p>Valerio Pfister <i>ENEA</i></p>
	<p>A Sociotechnical Imaginary of the Clean Hydrogen Mobility in Capo d' Orlando: A Case Study</p> <p>Raffaele Albanese & Agatino Nicta <i>CNR</i></p>	<p>Advanced controls (DRL and MPC) for activating demand side flexibility: applications in district heating, swimming pool facilities and PED</p> <p>Rongling Li <i>DTU</i></p>
	<p>Citizen Science to Improve Urban Resilience to Extreme Heat in Mediterranean Cities. A baseline for co-designing cool shelters in Rome</p> <p>Ezilda Costanzo <i>ENEA</i></p>	<p>Re-Valuing Urban Quality & Climate Neutrality in European Waterfront Cities Towards climate adaptation: a case study of a Coastal City in Portugal</p> <p>Laura Aelenei <i>LNEG</i></p>
16.30 – 17.00	Panel discussion	Panel discussion
17.00 – 17.20	Plenary and parallel sessions wrap up	<p>Ayşen Sivrikaya <i>Hacettepe University</i></p> <p>Ali Hainoun <i>AIT</i></p> <p>Monica Salvia <i>CNR</i></p> <p>Paola Clerici Maestosi <i>ENEA</i></p>
17:20 – 17:30	Concluding remarks	<p>Sonia Giovinazzi EERA JP Smart Cities coordinator, <i>ENEA</i></p> <p>Alessandro Sciallo EERA JP e3s coordinator, <i>University of Turin</i></p>