



# Energy Cities – Connecting cities to accelerate the energy transition

Founded in 1990, Energy Cities is the European network of cities in energy transition. It gathers today over 1,000 cities across 30 countries in the EU and beyond. Local governments of the network share a same vision of low-energy cities with a high quality of life for all and are working towards this vision together. Energy Cities' raison d'être is to support its members in this transition.

**THE NETWORK'S ACTIVITIES** are supervised by a Board of Directors composed of 11 local elected representatives from 11 countries and are implemented by a staff of 22 experts from 8 nationalities, altogether speaking 12 languages. Energy Cities pursue three main objectives: strengthening the role and skills of local authorities in the field of sustainable energy, representing their interests by contributing to discussions around the policies and proposals made by European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy, and developing and promoting local initiatives through exchange of experience and know-how and the implementation of joint projects.

For instance, Energy Cities is currently a partner in the progRESsHEAT project, in which the Danish city of Helsingør is involved as a case study city. progRESsHEAT aims at assisting local, regional, national and EU political leaders in developing policy and strategies to ensure a quick and efficient deployment of renewables in heating and cooling networks. Last March, the project partners gathered in Denmark for a cross-municipality workshop and study tours. Representatives from the six case study cities of the project - Herten (Germany), Litomerice (Czech Republic), Matosinhos (Portugal), Helsingør (Denmark), Brasov (Romania) and Ansfelden (Austria), had the occasion to share their experience on district heating & cooling and learn from each other. The project is now organising free webinars – open to all – on heating and cooling strategies (more information to be found at [www.progressheat.eu](http://www.progressheat.eu)).

Energy Cities is known for its creative campaigns and projects involving local authorities from EU Member States as well as candidate countries, developed in the framework of European funding programmes such as URBACT, INTERREG Europe, Horizon 2020, LIFE, Smart Cities and Communities. The network is notably coordinating the Covenant



of Mayors Office ([www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)), the Covenant of Mayors French Club, the INFINITE Solutions project (innovative financing solutions for sustainable energy), the CitiZEN project (sustainable mobility for citizens in Europe), the Display@ campaign (improving the energy performance of buildings), and is part of many more.

For over 25 years, Energy Cities has been



By Floriane Cappelletti,  
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Over the past 25 years, Energy Cities has supported a locally-led energy transition. We have witnessed its progressive take-off. We have seen local authorities daring to imagine their own energy future and finding ground-breaking solutions to involve local players. Today, Energy Cities strives to accelerate this trend. To showcase a myriad of innovative methods and practices coming from our 1,000 member cities across Europe. To provide a platform for sharing and learning. To replicate success. To make the energy transition happen.

Claire Roumet,  
Executive Director of Energy Cities.

advocating a democratic, locally-led energy transition. Change is already under way in those cities and regions who believe in collective action for designing a post-carbon society. Whether leadership is taken by mayors or by the local community, success is only possible if they work together while being supported by the national and European levels.

By showcasing inspiring examples from its member cities, facilitating peer-to-peer exchange, creating alliances and fuelling the political debate, Energy Cities is willing to make sure the energy transition path is paved with local engagement as well as social, environmental and economic benefits for all. ■