



Climate Active Neighbourhoods

Newsletter N°1

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Climate Active Neighbourhoods is launched

A new approach to fostering residential energy retrofits

Energy retrofits of residential areas make an important contribution to achieving EU goals on CO₂ emissions. The Climate Active Neighbourhoods project (CAN) encourages bottom-up initiatives that change energy consumption paradigms on a neighbourhood level, with a special focus on social housing and deprived areas. Strong partnership between actors aware of the barriers to the uptake of energy retrofitting strategies and willing to overcome them together will pave the way.

Belgian, French, German, British and Dutch partners build on their common experiences to develop and launch new organisational models for the sharing of responsibilities between local authorities and neighbourhoods to foster action from the bottom-up. Innovative financial schemes and tailored tools support local initiatives in putting an emphasis on energy savings and going beyond current business as usual.

Public authorities outside of CAN's direct sphere of influence will benefit from project results through a transnational coaching framework.

Shared responsibility – CAN will help municipalities establish shared responsibilities with various districts while supporting community-led organisations dedicated to improving the energy performance of the homes in their neighbourhoods. The project will find cost effective approaches to energy savings and craft programmes to help tenants understand the effect of their behaviour on energy use.

Financing schemes – On the neighbourhood level, CAN will develop and launch both investment funds for residents with a focus on migrant communities and new financing schemes with focus on rental homes.

Neighbourhood action – CAN will develop neighbourhood tools to promote good practice examples on the basis of retrofitting city tours, face-to-face consultations or local energy management.

Partner visit to Great Britain

In mid-October 2016, the CAN partnership met in Hastings on England's South East coast, where project partner AmicusHorizon will improve energy performance in the Ore area. Councillor Kim Forward, deputy leader of Hastings Council, commented, "Hastings Council especially seeks the proactive approach to empower local people and galvanise existing groups to take action on a neighbourhood level. In the Ore area, Hastings aims to assist people on low incomes to reduce their costs, improve their health and to change their behaviours in energy use in a very positive way."

Energy retrofitting of social housing will be combined with various approaches to changing tenant energy habits. The difference in energy use and cost effectiveness related to greenhouse gas reduction actions will be measured. During the meeting, understanding how residents feel about new concepts imposed from above was one main topic of discussion.



CAN Partnership in Hastings

International working group on financing instruments launched

The international working group on financial schemes also took advantage of the Hastings visit to launch its work. One key topic is that of creating investment funds for residents.

Hastings partner Energise Sussex Coast, a volunteer organisation, is supporting activities by training so-called energy champions to run a pop-up store that engages residents in saving energy.



A pop-up advice centre at the Bridge community centre on 14.10.2016

Spotlight on partner activities: Interview with Climate Alliance

What is your organisation's key focus?

Climate Alliance is a network of European cities and towns, banded together with the objective of protecting the global climate while promoting climate justice. We strive for a comprehensive approach to climate change policy based on partnerships as well as recognition of local level commitment and diversity. By joining, member municipalities have committed themselves to ambitious goals emissions reductions goals. Climate Alliance has over 1700 member municipalities in more than 25 European countries; 350 of these are located in North West Europe.

What problems do you want to tackle with CAN's help?

In carrying out energy refurbishments in the increasingly ageing residential housing stock, Climate Alliance members across Europe face the same problems as their counterparts all over North West Europe:

- Private house owners and tenants need to act but are not sufficiently driven to do so. Emissions reduction has low priority compared to the improvement of other living conditions.
- Incentives for landlords and tenants are misaligned: landlords decide on the energy efficiency of a building while tenants bear the energy consumption costs.
- Growing public indebtedness limits local public investments and leaves more tasks to private stakeholders.

For this reason, Climate Alliance brought together a strong partnership to overcome these barriers by finding new ways to achieve sustainability and CO₂ reduction goals while supporting members. New organisational models, innovative and viable financial schemes and tools that trigger action locally are all part of the equation.

How is Climate Alliance contributing to the project objective and what is your role?

Climate Alliance is lead partner of the CAN project and are thus managing and coordinating project partners as well as the overall implementation of the project. We are also involved in two core project activities:

Retrofitting City Tours – Climate Alliance is developing and carrying out the Retrofitting City Tours campaign. The campaign showcases local initiatives on energy efficiency and energy savings in residential buildings. The tours, organised jointly by municipal governments and local actors, target tenants and owners in selected neighbourhoods. They give insight into how residents can save energy by retrofitting and by changing household energy use patterns.

The campaign will be launched in pilot neighbourhoods in Essen and Worms, both Climate Alliance members. After the pilot stage, guidance documents will facilitate the implementation of Retrofitting City Tours in other cities.

CO₂ Monitoring – Local authorities acting on the neighbourhood level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions need regular emissions inventories to verify and authenticate success in their local climate change and energy policy. Climate Alliance will develop a set of rules for monitoring CO₂ emissions at the neighbourhood level. Conducting CO₂ monitoring at this level is important for the creation of reference values for future mitigation measures. A reference document on the methodology of local energy and CO₂ inventories will provide an assessment framework for neighbourhood activities both within CAN municipalities and for other interested local authorities.

Upcoming Events

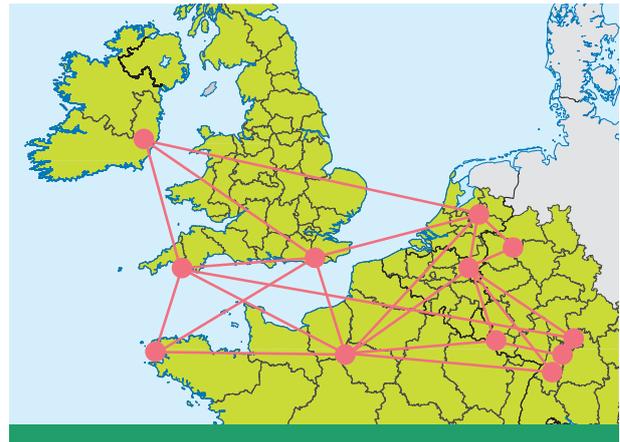
The third working group and CAN partner meeting will take place on 28 and 29 April 2017 in Essen, Germany. Information on workshops or study tours open to the public will be published on our website www.nweurope.eu/CAN.

Project Facts

Duration

February 2016 to October 2019

€ 7.8 million total project budget
€ 4.7 million funded via ERDF



The CAN Partners

The Partners

- Climate Alliance (Lead Partner)
- AmicusHorizon with Energise Sussex and Hastings Borough Council
- Gemeente Arnhem
- Brest métropole with Brest Emergence
- Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Stadt Essen
- Liège Energie with Ville de Liège
- Plymouth City Council
- EPAM Seine-Aval with Mantes-la-Jolie
- Stadt Worms

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