GREEN CITY VIBES

SUCCESSFUL RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGIES & POLICIES

www.renewables-networking.eu

RENEWABLES NETWORKING PLATFORM

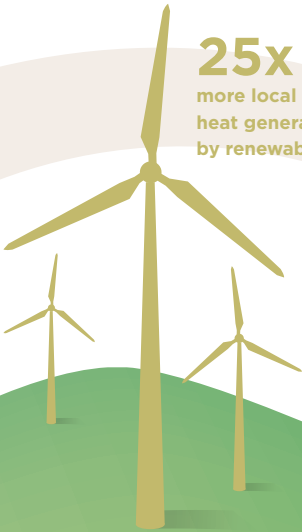# THE RENEWABLES PICTURE ACROSS **COVENANT OF MAYORS** SIGNATORY CITIES[1]

Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy

This unique multi-level initiative with over **7,700 committed cities** is driving urban leadership on renewable policies.

5,400+
action plans

25x
more local district heat generated by renewables
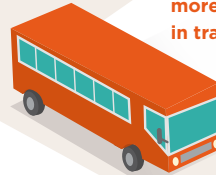
covering
183 million
people

9x
more renewables in transport sector

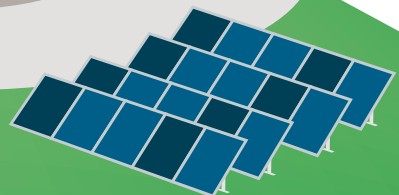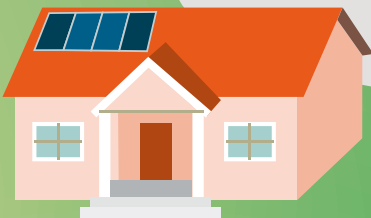Covenant of Mayors signatory cities have increased

5x

their final energy consumption[1] from renewable energy sources
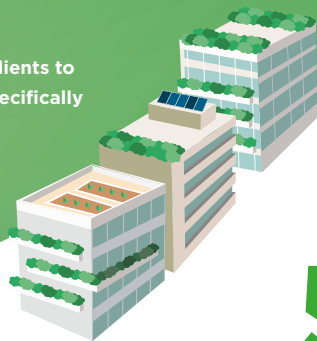
8x
more locally produced green power

Local decentralised heat production from renewables (solar, geothermal, biomass) **more than** **doubled**

1 Figures extracted from Covenant signatories' action plans and measured compared to the referenced baseline year (most generally 1990 or 2005)

GOING 100% GREEN: LATEST TRENDS AT LOCAL LEVEL

There is no winning recipe, but various possible ingredients to becoming a climate neutral, fossil fuel-free or more specifically 100% renewable-powered city. Thousands of European local authorities have already made ambitious climate pledges through the EU Covenant of Mayors initiative. More have decided to go the extra mile after committing to even bolder visions.

5 GAME CHANGERS TO SCALE UP RENEWABLE ENERGY LOCALLY

CITIES...

1 GETTING FINANCIALLY-SAVVY

Raising finance for the energy transition is a huge challenge for cities. There is often no choice but to go for alternative funding sources. In **Paris,** participative financing is a key strand of the city's 2050 climate neutral strategy. The city plans to support crowdfunding, crowdlending and crowdequity notably to help citizens invest in renewable energy projects. Soft loans, third party investment, revolving funds... cities all around Europe are moving away from beaten tracks to finance their actions.

» **Learn more with the Infinite Solutions Guidebooks:**
   www.energy-cities.eu/infinitesolutions

2 BETTING ON PARTNERSHIPS IN NEIGHBOURING AREAS

Going 100% renewable requires money but also space and resources! More and more cities are starting win-win partnerships with their rural hinterland by providing them with financial and technical assistance to kick-start renewable energy projects. The city of **Frankfurt,** for example, calculated that achieving its 100% renewable energy goals would require – after reducing energy consumption by 50% – to produce 25% of renewable energy locally while the remaining 25% would have to come from the rural neighbourhood.

» **Download the "Cities heading towards 100% renewable energy" report:**
   www.buildup.eu/en/node/50805

CITIES...

3 ▸ BECOMING NEW PLAYERS ON THE ENERGY MARKET

In recent years, the wind of remunicipalisation has blown hard across the EU. Inspired by their German counterparts, cities in the UK, France, Spain, Portugal and numerous other countries have launched their own local energy companies, becoming market players in their own right. Aside from social and economic considerations, a large number of the said local governments have seized the opportunity as a unique means to increase the production and provision of renewable energy in their area.

» **Learn more with the "Local energy ownership" study:**
www.energy-cities.eu/energyownership

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4 ▸ MATCHING SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Clever cities are very effectively adjusting the irregular power output of renewables by creating synergies between local resources and networks. The Scottish city of **Aberdeen,** for example, transforms excess electricity into hydrogen. This is either stored or used to power the biggest hydrogen bus fleet in Europe! And what about the city of **Geneva** which uses its lake to cool down the UN buildings? Or the Finnish capital of **Helsinki** taking advantage of the chilly waters of the Baltic sea to cool the servers of big data centres!

» **More food for thought:**
www.progressheat.eu | www.heatroadmap.eu

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5 ▸ SUPPORTING CITIZEN ENERGY

Cities support citizen-led renewable energy projects in many ways: Granting dedicated subsidies, financial and technical assistance, buying community shares in the projects, providing access to public facilities, etc. Public procurement is another lever for increasing the market share of community energy projects: municipalities in the **Brussels** region, for example, are now including bonus points in their public tenders for projects carried out by citizen cooperatives.

» **www.rescoop.eu | www.foeeurope.org**

Strategic energy planning requires partnerships between cities and national authorities. Unleashing the full local potential for climate and energy action can help each EU Member State meet and even increase its Paris Agreement targets.

It's no longer breaking news: early local renewable energy projects in Germany flourished thanks to preferential loans from banks combined with a stable and enabling national regulatory framework. In contrast, back in 2014, many cities in Spain saw their efforts in renewables hampered by a government backpedalling on solar power with the removal of feed-in tariffs and the introduction of a punitive "solar tax".

A comprehensive scientific database has been developed in the framework of the Renewables Networking Platform. It includes an annual assessment of the administrative and financing barriers that exist in the 28 EU Member States, as well as best practices.

» **View database: www.renewables-networking.eu/reporting**

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE
EU CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE?

The "Clean Energy for All Europeans" Package is one of the biggest energy policy reform proposals in the EU's history. Sub-national governments pin their hopes on the new directives on renewable energy and market design, as well as the regulation on the governance of the Energy Union.

CITIES' **POLITICAL** DEMANDS
OF EU INSTITUTIONS

» A seat for cities at the decision-making table, e.g. by supporting the creation of a multi-level energy and climate dialogue platform to better prepare national plans

» A space for new entrants in the energy market, including citizen cooperatives and local companies

» An enabling regulatory framework for new players, i.e. dedicated support instruments to make sure everyone has fair and equal access to the market

GO WITH THE FLOW

Learn about other cities' strategies — Share your own story — Grasp national and EU renewables policies

THE RENEWABLES NETWORKING PLATFORM

The Renewables Networking Platform covers the 28 EU Member States. It is about:

1 Sharing the drivers and barriers to renewable energy – project partners will develop a scientific database and organise a series of debates in national and EU fora

2 Providing methodological guidance and best practice exchange opportunities to cities committed to going down the 100% renewable energy road

In charge of the local dimension of the project, Energy Cities, the European association of local authorities in energy transition, fuels the debate in six focus countries: Czech Republic, France, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and The Netherlands. A series of workshops gathering local and regional stakeholders explores successful strategies as well as bottlenecks in the transition process.

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Energy Cities (www.energy-cities.eu)

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