



Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

North-West Europe

Thematic networking session
“Creating lasting change”
Driving energy transition
with communities

Luxembourg, 16 December 2025

Vincent Hagneré (JS)
Lorraine Brindel-Schild (CP-Germany)

Agenda

1. Session objective
2. Theme overview
3. CAN project experience
4. Networking tables



Objective

- **Bring together stakeholders** committed to enhancing energy efficiency
 - Get inspired by **best practices** that overcome barriers to smart energy systems and diversify the energy mix
 - Discuss how to transform **innovative energy solutions** and **business models into lasting territorial results**
 - Identify **support needs** to sustain community-driven energy initiatives
-

Creating lasting change



Create **lasting territorial change**, not just short-term project results



Embed project results into **regional / local policies and community practices**



Ensure that **public investments continue delivering value** after projects end

Creating lasting change



Build on your project's achievements and **ensure the transfer of successful initiatives**



Strengthen **connections with other projects**, create synergies and opportunities for **shared learning and collaboration**



Scale up and broaden the reach of **effective practices** across multiple regions and sectors

Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

Telling the story

Provide tools and visibility for projects to showcase and replicate their outputs

Building on success

Support the **uptake of successful project outputs** beyond what was initially planned

Creating connections

Facilitate knowledge exchange and networking among partners and projects, within NWE and beyond

Why is this topic a challenge for NWE?

- NWE is one of Europe's **highest energy-consuming regions**
 - Untapped opportunities to accelerate the deployment of **decentralised energy production** and **smart system solutions**
 - Unexploited potential to **improve the energy mix** and **consumption of renewable energy**
 - Unleveraged potential of **energy communities** to foster **behavioural change** and **empower citizens**
-

What do we expect?

Projects accelerating a smart and just energy transition in NWE



The NWE has a remarkable set of ongoing projects which:

- Accelerate the **energy transition at all governance levels**: from community and local to regional and transnational
- Advance the **energy transition of sectors**: transport, heating, services etc.
- Ensure **territorial inclusivity** across urban, peri-urban and rural areas: **no one left behind**
- **Foster collaboration**: bringing together the public sector, the private sector and the citizens

20+ projects

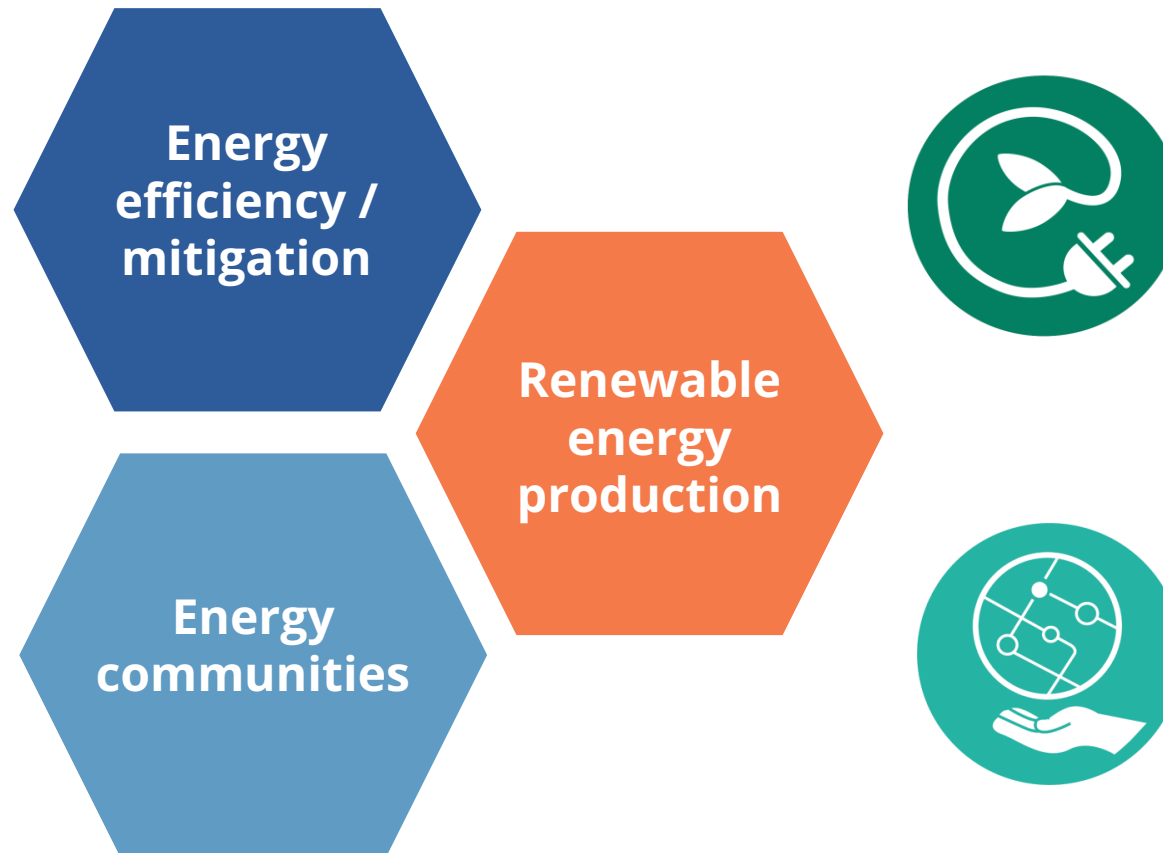
Driving the energy transition forward

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

North-West Europe



20+ projects

Driving the energy transition forward



Current NWE projects looking at → renewable energy production



RE-GREENHOUSE



DEM-AWE



OFFSHORE PROOF



ORESA

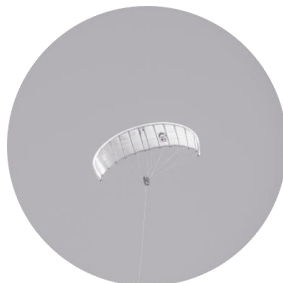


SHINES



ResNRJwater

Current NWE projects looking at → energy communities



RODEO



AquaCOM



SCEPA



CIRCUS



E2-CUTIES

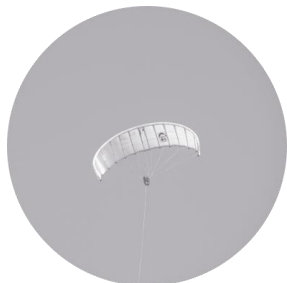


ACCU



SmartCORE

Current NWE projects looking at → energy efficiency & mitigation



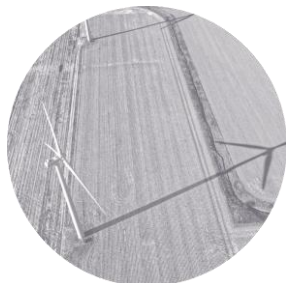
GEMS



DeCarb-Pro



W4S



WISTAR



CAMINO



Green SKHy



ECOBoost



STEER-NWE



MORE4Sustainability

Jenny-Claire Keilmann

Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest
Peoples

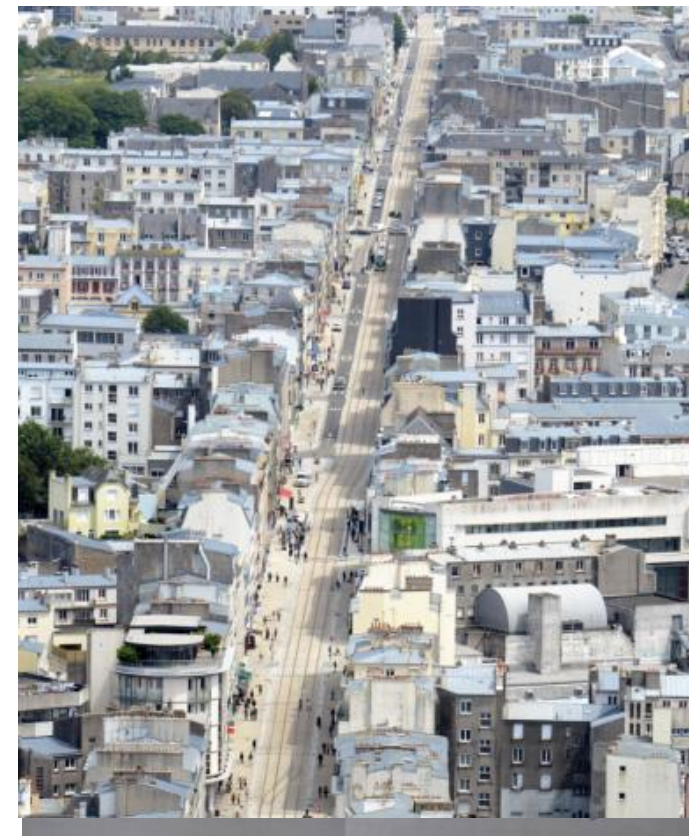
Lead partner of the CAN project (2016-2023)

Context

- Low energy renovation rate vs. climate policy targets
 - Local authorities face similar major difficulties in implementing low carbon strategies in the residential sector
- New methods are needed to reach stakeholders and encourage them to act



- **CO₂ emission reduction in the residential building sector**
 - Focus on deprived neighbourhoods
- **Increase the capacity of local authorities to implement climate action strategies more effectively**
 - Exploring new ways to involve residents

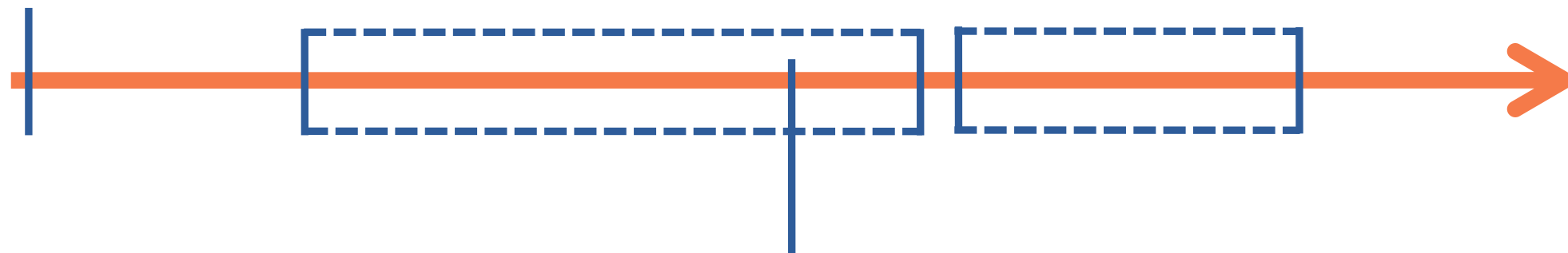


Starting point of a long journey

Emergence in
Frankfurt 2014

Climate Active Neighbourhoods
2016 - 2020

Capitalisation phase
2021 - 2023



Main outcomes and results

- ✓ Redesigned interaction between local authorities and neighbourhoods, **new models of cooperation**
- ✓ Integrated **neighbourhood approach** combining:
Energy efficiency and saving investments, creation of financial tools, information and behaviour change activities
- ✓ 1,339 households with improved energy standards, lead also to **health benefits and energy cost savings**
- ✓ Sustainable structures created at neighbourhood level



© Infrastruktur & Umwelt



Main findings

- ✓ Transforming municipalities into **facilitators** - finding the right strategy
 - ✓ Customising solutions for **each neighbourhood**. No one-size-fits-all solutions
 - ✓ Relying **on the locals** – no need to reinvent the wheel
 - ✓ Changing residents behaviour requires **multiple incentives**
 - ✓ Connect energy efficiency and social issues, **housing and health** – create additional benefits
 - ✓ Benefits of transnational exchange- seize opportunities of cooperation
-

Main findings

- ✓ Transforming municipalities into **facilitators** - finding the right strategy
- ✓ Customising solutions for **each neighbourhood**. No one-size-fits-all solutions
- ✓ Relying **on the locals** – no need to reinvent the wheel
- ✓ Changing residents behaviour requires **multiple incentives**
- ✓ Connect energy efficiency and social issues, **housing and health** – create additional benefits
- ✓ Benefits of transnational exchange- seize opportunities of cooperation

But what happens
to the main
findings once the
project is over?

...How can they have a lasting impact?

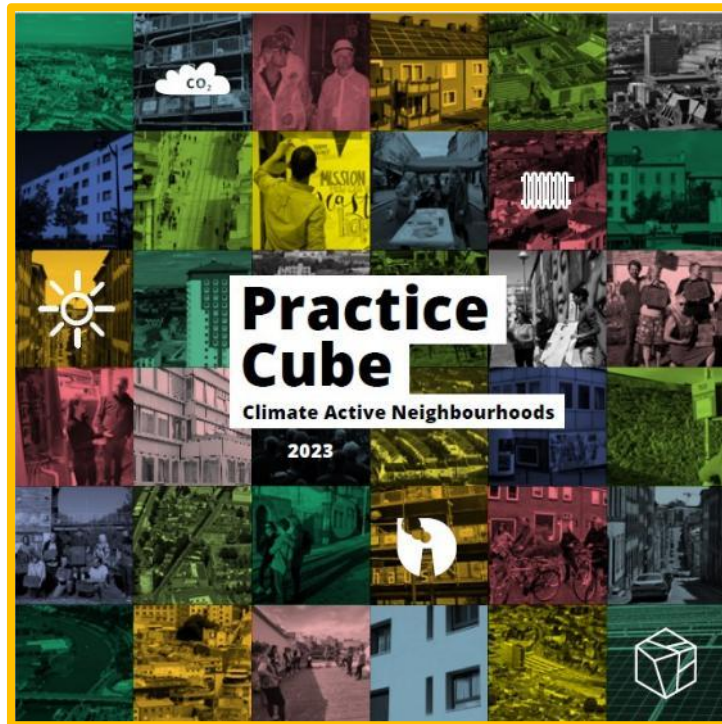
Lasting impact – *communication support*

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

North-West Europe



Challenges for lasting impact in CAN

- **From** an experimental framework that enables innovation
 to being integrated into existing, sustainable structures
 → local integration
 - **From** single (unexpected) results
 to conditions for a large roll-out
 → conceptual continuation
-

1. Lasting impact

– *local integration*

- ***The AANjaagfonds, initiated in CAN*** to support neighbourhood initiatives with ambitions on energy transition and greening, is still active and has been extended. In 2024, we supported about 50 neighbourhood initiatives who have serious ambitions to reduce CO2, realise energy efficient housing etc.
- ***Energy poverty:*** We came into contact with this specific form of poverty in 2017 and had pilots within CAN. At that moment energy poverty was not a real item in the Netherlands.

*Based on the **experiences from Brest and Plymouth** we set up our **own 'Arnhem Energy Poverty Approach'** that was approved by the city council in early 2021.*

1. Lasting impact

– *local integration*

- Integration and adaptation of successful approaches in Worms (DE): **Transition tours**
- Showcasing local best practices for climate action
- Local authority and local actors jointly organise the tours, targeting tenants and owners in selected neighbourhoods.
- City walks have been embedded **as a public relation and information tool** in climate strategies
- Enlarged to other municipal topics, like heat islands.

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

North-West Europe



City walk on heat islands in Worms (July 2022)



2. Lasting impact

– *conceptual continuation, anchoring CAN*

- ***Energy poverty***
 - Follow-up projects: Plymouth-Brest; Arnhem-Liège (SCEPA), Climate Alliance (ENPOR)
 - European Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)
 - ***Energy caravan***
 - Climate Alliance works on the dissemination of knowledge and skills for the implementation of the Energy Caravan, even beyond Germany
 - ***One-stop shops for residential energy renovation***
 - EU Peers Community of Practice for one-stop shops
 - Policy recommendations on how to address energy poverty
-

Conclusions

Ingredients for a lasting impact

- ✓ Resources:
 - ✓ Financial conditions (local/national) are crucial
 - ✓ Committed human capacity: local driver and caretaker needed
 - ✓ Local relevance: the action must fill a gap or build on existing efforts
 - ✓ Policy integration for anchorage
 - ✓ Communication & dissemination efforts
 - ✓ Networking efforts
-



Q&A

Networking tables



1. Tour de table

Share your plans to ensure durability and uptake of outputs



2. Discuss the key question

What further initiative(s) – at programme or project level – could support the durability of results?



3. Restitution

One participant from each table shares the takeaway messages from their group

Tour de table

What are your current plans to ensure durability and further uptake of outputs?

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

North-West Europe



Monkey Business Images via Canva.com

Key question

**What further initiative(s) – at
programme or project level –
could be taken to support the
durability of results?**



Neyya from Getty Images Signature via Canva.com

Restitution



What's next?

13:00 – 14:15

Foyer 1 - Level 0

NETWORKING LUNCH

14:15 – 16:15

NWE PROJECTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Track 1. Green transport and connectivity

Track 2. Circular and resource-efficient economy

Track 3. Climate-friendly and resilient regions

Track 4. Community-led energy transitions

Track 5. Resource-efficient local and regional planning

Track 6. Sustainable agriculture and water systems



**Social media
challenge**




**Vote for the most
inspiring story**

**Check your
personalised agenda
on the event app!**



NWE projects making a difference

	Workshop +1 Level +1	Delegates 3 Level -3	Banquet Level +1	Delegates 2 Level -3	Delegates 1 Level -3	Workshop 0 Level 0
	Green transport and connectivity	Circular and resource-efficient economy	Climate-friendly and resilient regions	Community-led energy transitions	Resource-efficient local and regional planning	Sustainable agriculture and water systems
14:15 – 14:35	Green SKHy	CASCADE	Cool Neighbourhoods	ACCU	ASSET	Better-Calf
10' break						
14:45 – 15:05	MONA	Hemp4Circularity	IB-Green	CIRCUS	Circular Building Convert	SIMONE
10' break						
15:15 – 15:35	STEER-NWE	E6	ECOBoost	RODEO	Circular Shift	Rural Roadwater Rescue
10' break						
15:45 – 16:05	WISTAR	PREUSE	PolliConnect	SmartCORE	T4R	ResiRiver

Interreg



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

North-West Europe

Thank you
