

PRESS RELEASE

WeGenerate Releases Policy Paper on Inclusive and Accessible Energy Transitions

WeGenerate has published its second policy paper, *Energising Futures: Advancing an Inclusive and Accessible Energy Transition through Urban Regeneration*, exploring how cities can ensure that the energy transition is not only sustainable, but also fair, inclusive, and accessible to all. The paper provides guidance for policymakers, local authorities, and urban practitioners on addressing energy poverty, supporting citizen participation, and creating the conditions for a just energy transition.

Energising Futures examines the European Union policy landscape on energy poverty, energy communities, and citizen engagement, highlighting the growing recognition of social justice within energy policy. It also identifies persistent challenges, including fragmented implementation, limited local capacity, regulatory complexity, and unequal access to the benefits of the energy transition.

The paper introduces a practical framework for understanding the energy transition as a sequenced and interconnected process. It outlines five key steps: building energy literacy, improving energy efficiency and refurbishment, expanding renewable energy generation, developing Renewable Energy Communities (RECs), and progressing towards Positive Energy Districts (PEDs). The analysis emphasises that successful energy transitions depend not only on technology, but also on the social, institutional, and governance conditions that enable participation and inclusion.

Drawing on experiences from WeGenerate Demo Cities and Fellow Cities, including Bucharest (Romania), Cesena (Italy), Cascais (Portugal), Liepāja (Latvia), Barcelona (Spain), and Kadıköy (Türkiye), the paper presents practical examples of how cities are addressing energy vulnerability, supporting community participation, and integrating renewable energy into urban regeneration processes. These case studies demonstrate how local governments can act as key facilitators in translating European ambitions into tangible benefits for citizens.

The policy paper concludes with recommendations for European, national, and local decision-makers, calling for stronger social conditionality in energy policies, improved support for energy literacy and citizen engagement, more accessible financing mechanisms, and greater recognition of Renewable Energy Communities as socio-technical systems that require both technical and social support.



Energising Futures is intended to support policymakers, city practitioners, energy agencies, and civil society organisations in designing energy transition pathways that reduce inequalities, empower communities, and ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to climate-neutral cities.

Read the full policy paper [here](#).

WeGenerate - Co-creating people-centric sustainable neighbourhoods through urban regeneration is a Horizon Europe Innovation Action seeking to infuse the elements of people and co-creation in the urban regeneration processes. The project is based on the journeys of four neighbourhoods and their communities located in different parts of Europe: Bucharest (Romania), Cascais (Portugal), Cesena (Italy) and Tampere (Finland). To learn more about WeGenerate, visit our [website](#)!

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