



ENERGY TRANSITION LEARNING RELAY

October 2020 – January 2021



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TOMORROW

TOMORROW Energy Transition Learning Relay

Governing energy transitions in cities - a peer learning programme

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that we need to drastically reduce carbon emissions in order to reduce and prevent the worsening effects of the climate crisis. Local authorities play a key role in fostering sustainability transitions. Some municipalities have become pioneers in leading climate action and do their part in reducing emissions by implementing climate policies, facilitating transition roadmapping processes, setting up climate action plans, innovating their local governance and supporting participatory engagement activities and grassroots initiatives in their cities.

In the past months, municipalities have also been in the front line providing a prompt response to the Covid-19 crisis. Some local authorities have already been setting up the foundations for building more sustainable and resilient cities post-COVID crisis. They, for example, implemented local sustainability plans, are re-thinking mobility and improved their collaboration with diverse stakeholders. In these uncertain and unprecedented times, it is important to build resilience strategies to address both climate and COVID crises and search for potential opportunities to build more sustainable, liveable and just cities.

- ▶ Do you work in a local authority or you are involved in supporting the sustainability transition in collaboration with municipalities (e.g. by setting up an energy cooperative, by facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations, by running local associations or NGOs operating at city level, by conducting action research in your city, etc.)?
- ▶ Are you interested in learning more on how to envision and facilitate sustainability transition processes in your city?
- ▶ Do you want to learn how to facilitate a multi-stakeholder governance process accelerating the energy transition?
- ▶ Do you want to learn from peers motivated to foster sustainability transitions in cities?

If so, join us and other peer cities and towns for an **Energy Transition Learning Relay**, a 3-months peer-learning programme for elected officials, civil servants and civil society actors motivated to foster energy transition governance processes in (their) cities. **We will launch it on 22 October 2020 in Brussels (or online)!**

Programme information

The Energy Transition Learning Relay will be organised between October 2020 and January 2021 to support participants to connect, learn and share experiences on how to foster energy transition governance processes in (their) cities. We will bring in the knowledge and experience gathered as part of the TOMORROW project on how to envision and facilitate energy transition governance processes.

More specifically, we will share expertise on transition roadmapping and transition governance, an alternative governance approach aiming at facilitating and accelerating sustainability transitions through a participatory process of visioning, learning and experimenting. We will share methods for analysing transition dynamics and multi-stakeholder engagement approaches.

Participants will learn from the experiences of TOMORROW cities and other pioneers cities in Europe that have been implementing transition roadmapping processes towards building more sustainable and resilient societies.

The programme is designed around a learning question related to fostering energy and sustainability transitions in cities, which each participant brings to the programme. Throughout the training programme, each participant will deepen and explore their learning question through a peer to peer and experiential learning supporting participants to implement their ideas into practice.

The Learning Relay will start with a kick-off workshop on the **22nd of October** that will take place either in person in Brussels or online (to be decided by the end of August 2020 to accommodate current restrictions posed by COVID-19 measures).

After this kick-off workshop, the participants will deepen their individual learning question and form smaller groups where they collaborate with and support each other. Each group member provides input to the learning question of his or her fellow group mates. The training facilitator will guide all participants by facilitating the group interactions and by organising three webinars during November to January to support learning across groups.

During the relay, participants will be encouraged to organise a transition intervention related to the process of fostering energy transitions in their city. For instance, co-organising a webinar with colleagues or partners from the civil society, applying one of the participatory tools in their city, or another type of activity.

Learning objectives

The TOMORROW Energy Transition Learning Relay aims to support you to:

- ▶ Gain new knowledge about sustainability transition, transition governance and transition roadmapping in cities;
- ▶ Learn about innovative engagement and governance processes already implemented by cities;
- ▶ Receive feedback from peers and professionals on a concrete learning question related to foster sustainability transition in your city;
- ▶ Establish new connections at a personal level and with other stakeholders leading sustainability transitions in different European cities;
- ▶ Get inspired by pioneers that have been already implementing sustainability and energy transition processes and projects in their cities;
- ▶ Experience an innovative learning environment encouraging experiential and peer-to-peer learning;
- ▶ Apply newly acquired knowledge and tools in your context;

What do you bring in?

In order to participate, you should:

- ▶ Demonstrate motivation & curiosity to be part of an innovative blended learning format;

- ▶ Share your experience, knowledge and network;
- ▶ Commit to participate in the kick-off workshop, the three webinars and be actively involved in the group work;
- ▶ Invest 1-3 hours a week during a 3 months period between October 2020 and January 2021;
- ▶ Organise a transition intervention during the period of the programme and especially between November 2020 and early January 2021.

What we provide

We will provide:

- ▶ Theoretical framing and content during the kick-off workshop and a fertile ground to spark continued interactions and knowledge exchange;
- ▶ An online platform to showcase your initiative and learning process with the other participants;
- ▶ Access to people in TOMORROW's community of practice as well as of DRIFT and Energy Cities networks;
- ▶ Guidance and support during the relay;
- ▶ Upon request, a financial contribution (exact amount of the lump-sum to be decided) to partially cover travel and accommodation for the kick-off meeting in Brussels.

How to apply

If you would like to take part in the Training Programme, please apply via the online application form at energy-citi.es/LearningRelayTomorrow before 17 July 2020.

You will be asked to provide a learning question that you want to bring in during the programme and motivate why you want to join. We will make a selection of participants based on these applications. The notification of acceptance will be communicated in August 2020.

Participation in the Energy Transition Relay is free of charge, but there are some conditions to apply and a selection procedure. The participants need to be available to engage in the programme through a workshop and at least two virtual meetings. We will aim to be as flexible as possible to cater to the needs and timetables of the participants.

Application assessment criteria

We will take into account gender balance, geographical spread and personal motivation. Applications will also be assessed considering the following key criteria:

- ▶ **Potential for Innovation:** Extent to which the learning question is innovative and pushes alternative sustainability transitions interventions and activities in cities;
- ▶ **Potential for Action:** Extent to which the applicant aims to apply the lessons learnt into practice in his/her context;
- ▶ **Experience:** Extent to which the applicant has relevant experience, capabilities, enough time to take advantage of this opportunity;
- ▶ **Relevance:** Extent to which the learning question proposed by the applicant is falling within the scope of the Learning Relay.

Important dates

The Energy Transition Relay will run between October 2020 and January 2021.

- ▶ **May 18th 2020:** registration for applications opens;
- ▶ **July 17th 2020:** deadline for applications,
- ▶ **August 2020:** announcement of successful applicants;
- ▶ **August 2020:** announcement on whether the kick-off workshop will take place in person or online;
- ▶ **Introductory webinar:** early October 2020;
- ▶ **Kick-off Workshop:** 22nd of October 2020 - Brussels or online;
- ▶ **November 2020:** peer-learning webinar #1
- ▶ **December 2020:** peer-learning webinar #2
- ▶ **Final webinar:** January 2021

Who are the organisers?

The Energy Transition Learning Relay is organised by [DRIFT](#) and [Energy Cities](#) as part of the TOMORROW project.

TOMORROW is a Horizon 2020 funded project, aiming at empowering local authorities to lead the transition towards low-carbon, resilient and more liveable cities. In the framework of the project, six cities (Valencia, Brasov, Nis, Dublin and Brest) will implement innovative forms of governance to accelerate sustainable transitions through participatory processes of visioning, learning and experimenting.

Find out more at: <https://www.citiesoftomorrow.eu/>

DRIFT is a leading research institute on and for sustainability transitions. DRIFT sees the opportunities and the need for fundamental change towards a sustainable and just society. DRIFT develops and shares transition knowledge, applies innovative governance approaches in practice and offers academic and professional training. In this way, DRIFT aims to help people, cities, sectors and organizations to proactively contribute to sustainability transition.

Energy Cities is a network of 1,000 local governments in 30 countries. Energy Cities wants a radical transformation of the energy systems and policies, giving citizens the power to shape a decentralised and renewable energy future. We trigger a trustful dialogue between citizens, local leaders and EU & national institutions to accelerate the energy transition in Europe.

Contact

For further information, do not hesitate to get in touch with the TOMORROW Energy Transition Learning Relay coordinator: [Giorgia Silvestri \(silvestri@drift.eur.nl\)](mailto:silvestri@drift.eur.nl)



TOMORROW

Tomorrow is a Horizon 2020 funded project, aiming at empowering local authorities to lead the transition towards low-carbon, resilient and more liveable cities. In the framework of the project, six cities will develop 2050 transition roadmaps together with citizens and other local stakeholders and serve as pilot for the transition of European territories.

www.citiesoftomorrow.eu

CONTACT

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