



# ENERGY TRANSITION LEARNING RELAY

Multi-actor participation & engagement

March 2021 – June 2021



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the European Union



**TOMORROW**

# TOMORROW Energy Transition Learning Relay

## Governing energy transitions and facilitating multi-actor engagement processes 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. According to a United Nations report, cities use 78 percent of energy globally and produce over 60 percent of carbon emissions. So, they can play a big role in reducing carbon emissions. At the same time, local authorities play a key role in fostering sustainability transitions and in facilitating innovative participatory processes engaging citizens and other local actors. 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 grassroots initiatives in their cities.

Many municipalities are at the forefront of facilitating engagement and participation of citizens, community groups, or business in making their cities just and sustainable. They are an important facilitator of multi-actor engagement in their cities. Municipalities are currently also playing a key role in 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 are you 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 approaches to envision and facilitate multi-actor engagement process towards sustainability transition in your city?
- ▶ Do you want to learn from inspiring examples of multi-actor engagement of other cities?

If so, join us and your peers for the **second edition of the Energy Transition Learning Relay**, a 4-months peer-learning programme for elected officials, civil servants and civil society actors motivated to foster energy transition governance processes in (their) cities. **The peer-learning programme will start on 11<sup>th</sup> of March online!**

### Programme information

The Energy Transition Learning Relay will be organised between March and June 2021 to support participants to connect, learn and share experiences on how to facilitate multi-actor engagement processes fostering energy transition in cities. We will bring in the collective 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 pioneer cities in Europe that have designed and implemented multi-actor engagement processes towards building more sustainable and resilient societies.

The programme centres around learning questions related to facilitating multi-actor engagement processes towards fostering energy and sustainability transitions in cities, which participants bring to the programme. Throughout the training programme, each participant will deepen their knowledge and explore answers to their question through peer-to-peer and experiential learning – these support participants to implement their ideas in practice.

The Learning Relay will start with an introductory webinar on the **11<sup>th</sup> of March**.

After this webinar, the participants will have deepened 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 the online activities.**

During the Relay, participants will be encouraged to organise a transition intervention related to the multi-actor engagement processes 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:

- ▶ Learn about innovative multi-actor engagement and governance processes already implemented by cities;
- ▶ Gain new knowledge about sustainability transition, transition governance and transition roadmapping in 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 online learning format;
- ▶ Share your experience, knowledge and network;
- ▶ Commit to participate in the four webinars and the kick-off workshop and be actively involved in the group work;
- ▶ Invest 1-3 hours a week during a 3 months period between March and June 2021;
- ▶ Organise a transition intervention during the period of the programme and especially between April and early June 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 and other practitioners in the energy transition;
- ▶ Access to people in TOMORROW's community of practice as well as of DRIFT and Energy Cities networks;
- ▶ Guidance and support during the relay.

## How to participate

**If you would like to take part in the Training Programme, please apply via the online application form at [this link](#) before 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.**

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 the first week of March.

Participation in the Energy Transition Relay is free of charge, but there are some conditions to participate. The participants need to be available to engage in the programme through a workshop and at least two webinars. 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 multi-actor sustainability transitions 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 March and June 2021.

- ▶ **February 28<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for applications;**
- ▶ **First week of March - Announcement of successful applicants.**

Date	Time	Activity
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> of March	14:00-16:00 CET	Introductory webinar#1
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> of April	10:30-12:30 13:30-16:30 CET	Online kick-off workshop
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> of April	14:00-16:00 CET	Peer-learning webinar #2
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> of May	14:00-16:00 CET	Peer-learning webinar #3
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> of June	TBD	Peer-learning webinar #4 and closing of the Relay

## 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, Mouscron, 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**

[www.citiesoftomorrow.eu](http://www.citiesoftomorrow.eu)

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