

Science4Policy briefing event

Local participation in European energy transition: An MEP Roundtable



Date: 24 June 2026 at 12.00–13.30 CET



European Parliament, MEP Salon

A light lunch will be served

[Register here](#)

Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
12:00-12:05	Welcome and introduction	Chiara Antonelli - IEEP
12:05-12:15	Introductory remarks	MEP Bruno Tobback (S&D)
12:15-12:30	Presentation of the policy brief	Irene Chiocchetti – Policy analyst, IEEP
12:30-12:50	Reactions from speakers – moderated by Chris Foulds (ARU)	Monika Helak - Reform Institute, member of Think Sustainable Europe Chris Vrettos , Senior Policy Advisor, REScoop Claire Simpson , Deputy Head of Department, Climate and Town Transition Team, Brussels City
12:50-13:20	Open discussion with MEPs, advisors and assistants	

13:20-13:30	Concluding remarks	MEP Brigitte Van den Berg (RenewEurope)
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About the event

The [Institute for European Environmental Policy \(IEEP\)](#), together with Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) and Reform Institute (member of IEEP's [Think Sustainable Europe](#) network of think tanks), is organising a policy roundtable at the European Parliament, focusing on an efficient and inclusive governance of the energy transition. In particular, discussions will touch upon the **need for effective local participation and increased bottom-up approaches**, such as the energy communities, which have the potential to deliver a just and inclusive transition towards the EU climate targets. **In light of the recent publication of the Citizen Energy Package and the upcoming entry into force of the new Emission Trading System on road transport and buildings (ETS2) and the Social Climate Fund and Social Climate Plans**, we will address the main challenges impeding such participation, the solutions, and how MEPs can contribute to closing these gaps at the local level. During the event, the upcoming policy brief ***"Enhancing local participation as a driver of the energy transition"*** will be presented and finalised with the integration of the insights from the discussion.

The policy brief and the roundtable are part of the [SHARED GREEN DEAL](#) Horizon 2020 project, whose core goal is to stimulate shared actions on Green Deal initiatives across Europe, by providing Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) tools to support the implementation of 8 EU Green Deal policy areas at the local and regional level. Within the project, partners have carried out a series of community vision social experiments, showing how community-driven approaches can effectively support climate action. The policy brief builds on the outcomes of these social experiments, highlighting the main barriers that hinder effective local participation in energy policies. During the event, we will address the following issues:

- What strategies can best enhance the participation of local stakeholders, in delivering the objectives of European energy policies and, importantly, in ensuring a just transition for all?
- How can EU legislation better reflect the diverse local realities that shape energy use (e.g. residential heating), instead adopting the one-size-fits-all technology-focused solutions?
- How can MEPs enable participation of local communities in energy transition policies and initiatives?
- What specifically should be remembered for the new Citizen Energy Package, related recommendations, and the Electrification Action Plan?

All MEPs, APAs and advisors are invited to join, with other experts contributing to the discussion.

Key documents

- Gray, E. K., 2025. Community Visioning: A Guide to Co-creating Clean Energy Futures. Cambridge: SHARED GREEN DEAL. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17086736>.
- Gray, E. K., Rohse, M., Fahy, F., Jost, C., 2025. Community visioning for just, clean energy futures in Europe. In: Robison, R. and Royston, S. (eds.): Findings and Recommendations from the SHARED GREEN DEAL Social Experiments. Cambridge: SHARED GREEN DEAL. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15270128>.
- Foulds, C., Royston, S., Crowther, A., Aggeli, A., Robison, R., Noreña Ospina, M., Wieser, P., 2025. Bringing together citizens and professionals to develop know-how for energy efficient renovations. In: Robison, R. and Royston, S. (eds.): Findings and Recommendations from the SHARED GREEN DEAL Social Experiments. Cambridge: SHARED GREEN DEAL. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15270137>.

For more information about the event, please contact: Irene Chiocchetti ichiocchetti@ieep.eu



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