Climate Active Neighbourhoods

Why this project?

NWE residential building stock emits too much GHG - and the change rate is too low!

In NWE, over 80% of residential housing stock has an urgent need to improve its energy performance since it consumes over 60% of EU total residential energy. Yet, the mean change rate of 1% p.a is far too low to meet the related EU targets to reduce GHG emissions by 2030 and 2050, and least of all the recent 2015 UN Paris goal to limit global warming below 2°. Energy renovation, optimising building energy performance and residents' behaviour need to be sped up.

This is a main challenge throughout urban areas of NWE hosting 75% of the NWE-population. Municipal low carbon strategies targeting the older residential sector exist in NWE cities. But in all countries public authorities face similar major difficulties in implementing these, especially in deprived city quarters where old building stock, poverty and social exclusion are aggravating factors.

Main market failures and barriers common to all urban NWE areas are:

Individual private house owners and tenants need to act but are not sufficiently driven to take action. For them, GHG emission reduction has low priority compared to other living conditions.

Incentives for landlords and tenants are misaligned: landlords decide the energy efficiency of a building while tenants bear the energy consumption costs.

Private decisions do not consider the wider social impacts of emissions, prices do not reflect these.

Growing public indebtedness limits local public investments and leaves more tasks to the private stakeholders.

A new approach to reach the stakeholders and trigger sufficient action

CAN will develop and realise new organisational (governance) modes for sharing responsibilities between local authorities and neighbourhoods – to trigger the necessary bottom-up actions. Innovative financial schemes will serve as basis for the implementation of the envisaged changes.

Empowering bottom-up initiatives is a novel approach to deliver a city-wide low carbon strategy going beyond current practice.

Deprived neighbourhoods - High saving potential and improved liveability

The project targets urban districts in NWE with high potential to reduce GHG emissions. Priority is given to deprived city areas including social housing. The neighbourhoods are at risk of social exclusion. Improving the energy performance helps to reduce social disparities between deprived neighbour-hoods and well off city parts.

Project focus and results

CAN aims to reduce GHG emissions from old and deprived residential city districts in NWE.

The project activates bottom-up initiatives to change the energy consumption paradigms on the neighbourhood level.

CAN partnership builds on transnational synergies from different governing approaches beyond national administrative systems.

CAN contributes to the NWE programme objective by facilitating the implementation of existing local low-carbon strategies.

Results: Reduced GHG emissions and increased capacity of public authorities

CAN changes the approach on the ground to implement city-wide low-carbon strategies. It increases the capacity of local public authorities in NWE to reach the necessary stakeholders.

An increased refurbishment rate (5% in CAN target areas), improved energy standards, improved appliances and their improved use will lead to a significant reduction of CO2-emissions.

Solutions and outputs

Renovation activities and installing energy efficiency technologies in cooperation with tenants and landlords will improve the

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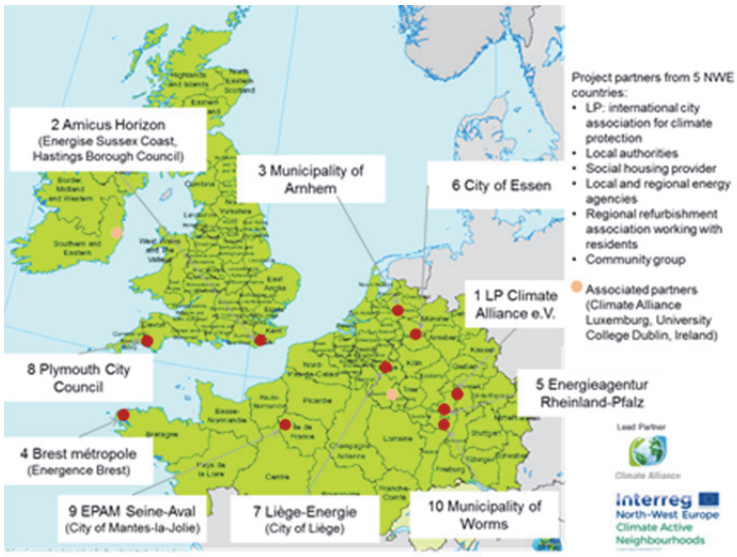
energy standard for households in NWE. SMEs benefit in the construction and equipment sector. Investments triggered for energy-related improvements sum up to over 14 million Euro during the project duration.

Solutions for new financing schemes and organisational arrangements are rolled-out throughout NWE and European cities by jointly developed coaching actions.

CAN activities directly target over 150,000 households. Indirectly many more households will benefit through capacity building and coaching activities. The lead partner Climate Alliance is a European city network with 350 members in NWE and 1,700 Europe and will secure, together with all CAN partners, the roll-out of the solutions in the long term.

Project Partners

Local, regional public authorities, energy agencies, housing and neighbourhood associations from 5 countries join forces to use synergies from their different governing approaches.



The partners represent the main variety of NWE urban areas, population sizes (from 80,000 to >500,000) and economic strengths. The neighbourhoods tackled reflect main types of social problems, of constructional and organisational backgrounds. The best solutions found in these types of project territories will serve as blueprints for reducing CO_2 emissions in deprived districts in all NWE urban areas.

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To reduce GHG emissions from old and deprived residential city districts
Bottom-up initiatives and local authorities share tasks and responsibility to deliver reductions!

T1 Development of new models for bottom up action on GHG reduction

- Analyse bottom-up initiatives
- Develop new roles of local authorities to share responsibility with neighbourhood initiatives
- Secure strong link between bottom-up activities and low-carbon strategies
- Transnational evaluation of possible organisational arrangement, conclusions for realisation

T2 Create financing schemes and activation tools to empower bottom-up initiatives

- Develop and test citizens' financing and bottom-up solidarity mechanisms
- Legal and design support for bottom-up driven action
- Activation tools for behaviour change
- Partnership-wide evaluation and monitoring plan, conclusions as basis for realisation

LT Long-term effects

- Develop transfer and coaching framework for NWE and European municipalities and cities
- Develop transnational strategy for pro-active roll-out of outputs beyond partnership
- Prepare post-project implementation of coaching framework on EU, national and regional level
- Develop long-term platform/working structure for post-project improvement of outputs - set up transnational communities of practice

Transnational coaching for all activities according to support plan: partners will coach each other, transfer of experiences of partner staff in real time and virtual working group meetings, on site visits, transnational exchange of neighbourhood groups etc.

T3 Deliver GHG emission reduction as shared tasks between neighbourhoods and local authorities

- Realise "grass-root level" approach with focus on very high involvement of bottom-up initiatives
- Use multiplicator approach: NGO's / residents' associations etc
- Realisation via face-to-face / close consultation by local authorities
- Monitor and evaluate effects of test implementation – feedback to improve instruments and processes and conclusions for transfer and long-term roll-out of tested solutions

Pilot Investments

I1 Improvements in 500 households (private ownership) to test the multiplicator approach
I2 Improvements in 300 households (private ownership) with face-to-face consultation
I3 Improvements in 100 homes (public ownership) to test multiplicator and face-to-face approach

External Communication (C) and Project Management (M)

- Spread CAN activities and solutions to NWE and EU cities and city networks, facilitate implementation of low carbon strategies
- Coordination and internal communication, finance management, risk and quality management, controlling and audit

Interreg North-West Europe Climate Active Neighbourhoods
Climate Alliance Lead Partner

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Models for neighbourhood bottom-up action on GHG reduction

Objective: Develop viable organisational models between local authorities and bottom-up initiatives

The WP aims at developing new and optimising existing governance models to enhance the necessary commitment of local neighbourhoods while securing coherence between bottom-up activities and city-wide strategies. Feedback from pilot implementation will be evaluated and the governance arrangements will be refined for further use.

Key activities with all PP involved are:

- Analysis of neighbourhoods in NWE cities: building, social structures, bottom-up initiatives, engagement potential
- Joint development (bringing together the approaches of different NWE countries)and optimisation of roles of local authorities, energy and housing agencies to share more responsibility with bottom-up initiatives
- Evaluation of possible approaches and decision on realising within the whole partnership: What mechanisms could work best and should be realised?

The WP leads to viable solutions for organising roles of local governments and neighbourhood bottom-up initiatives for a low-carbon society: creates new partnerships between local authorities, energy agencies and district bottom-up initiatives, neighbourhood groups and further stakeholders.

Financing schemes and activation to empower bottom-up initiatives

Objective: Develop and evaluate new and optimised financing schemes and activation tools and methods to empower bottom-up initiatives

The WP comprises the joint development and evaluation of the support which is necessary to enable bottom-up activities.

Key activities are:

- Develop and test improved and novel financing schemes to involve citizens and neighbourhoods with bottom-up solidarity mechanisms and on issues not covered by national funding programmes
- Legal and design support for neighbourhoods: Develop and realise optimised legal (e.g. for house owners) and design (e.g. how to solve technical problems) advice for enhanced bottom-up driven actions
- Activation tools for behaviour change: Develop and test novel and improved tools
- Joint evaluation of possible schemes and tools and joint decision-making for implementing activities - What could work best?

Main outputs:

- At least 3 innovative financing schemes developed and evaluated
- Set of legal and design instruments (tailored for target groups) developed and evaluated
- Innovative behaviour change methods developed, implemented and evaluated

Deliver GHG emission reduction as shared tasks

Objective: Realise integrated measures to achieve low carbon city districts with applying new governance arrangements

The partnership realises (pilot) investments and energy saving measures on neighbourhood level while applying the jointly developed organisational arrangements, financing schemes and activation tools.

Key activities are:

- Testing and implementing of 3 different modes of sharing tasks in 10 older residential city districts (to be selected against partnership criteria) with altogether ca. 150,000 inhabitants in BE, DE, FR, NL, UK
- Monitoring and evaluating the outcomes: A concept will be developed jointly which comprises e.g. the CO2 and fuel bill reduction or the social return on investment.

21,000 households at all partner locations will benefit from an improved energy

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standard thanks to the joint activities in this WP.

The experiences and lessons-learned will be used to refine the developed models as well as financing schemes, activation tools.

Long-term effects

The WP ensures the long-term positive effects (GHG emission reduction and social value) and that solutions are rolled-out throughout NWE beyond the project's lifetime.

Main positive long-term effects are:
- lifetime CO2 emission reductions from realised investments and indirectly initiated by financing schemes and bottom-up activities
- optimised governance arrangements put in place at PPs (organisational and institutional change) and bottom-up initiatives empowered to overcome barriers

To sustain the effects, all partners will:
- Develop a joint coaching framework for cities and municipalities of different sizes to facilitate NWE/Europe wide implementation
- develop a maintenance and monitoring schemes
- set-up of Transnational Communities of Practice for stakeholders, civil society groups and civil servants from all NWE countries to roll-out and evaluate the solutions found.

Roll-out activities comprise among others on international level CA's member cities (1700 in Europe) and city networks: the Joint Coaching Framework as a tangible service will be kept up to date and used continually and the solutions of the project will be incorporated in CA's programmes and guidelines. On national, regional and cross-border level, the partners will advocate the solutions found.

- Project duration February 2016 – October 2019
- Total budget: 7.8 million Euro
- Priority Axis 2 Low Carbon; Specific Objective 2 To facilitate the implementation of low-carbon strategies

Partner organisations

LEAD PARTNER
Climate Alliance (DE)
Dr. Andreas Kress
a.kress@climatealliance.org

AmicusHorizon (UK)
Diana Lock
Diana.lock@amicushorizon.org.uk
Sub-partner: Hastings Borough Council
Energise Sussex Coast

Municipality of Arnhem (NL)
Hans van Ammers
hans.van.ammers@arnhem.nl

Brest métropole (FR)
Anne-Marie Cabon
anne-marie.cabon@brest-metropole.fr
Sub-partner: Brest Energence

Energy Agency Rhineland-Palatinate (DE)
Bernd Lämmlin
bernd.laemmlin@energieagentur.rlp.de

City of Essen (DE)
Kai Lipsius
kai.Lipsius@umweltamt.essen.de

Liège-Energie (BE)
Gün Gedik
gun.gedik@liegeenergie.be
Sub-partner: City of Liège

Plymouth City Council (UK)
Alex Midlen
alex.midlen@plymouth.gov.uk

EPAM Seine-Aval (FR)
Fabrice Levi
f.levi@epamsa.fr
Sub-partner: Mantes-la-Jolie

Municipality of Worms (DE)
Reinhold Lieser
reinhold.lieser@worms.de

Associated Partners (LU, IE)
Climate Alliance Luxemburg; Paul Polfer, paul.polfer@oeko.lu

University College Dublin, School of Architecture and Environmental Policy; Marcus Collier, marcus.collier@ucd.ie

Project support
INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT
Dr. Birgit Haupter; Birgit.haupter@iu-info.de