

Terms of Reference for Sub-themes

Development and Use of Renewables in Local Energy Systems

Development of new policy and practices in energy systems by exploring the possibilities of ways to stimulate renewables in Local Energy Systems (LES). Renewable energy in this call for proposals is defined as energy sources in compliance with Directive 2009/28/EC, like solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy (stream, wave and osmosis), biomass, etc. The term "local" in this context means that the initiative must be taken by a local or regional party and the region benefits from it.

Energy systems in this call are seen in broad perspective, containing energy used in the urban environment, industry and transport.

Development and Use of Renewables in Local Energy Systems	
Aims	To initiate new approaches in local energy systems by exploring, identifying and promoting ways to stimulate renewable energy in for example heating, transportation etc.
Methodology	The Sub-project methodology will include one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review developments in partner regions and elsewhere, to assess current progress and to identify best practices and success factors and barriers; • Engage with different initiatives in renewable energy to obtain an integrated and optimum sustainable energy system • Study economics of new, innovative local energy systems, • Engage with energy industry and potential financial bodies/investors to clarify opportunities and investor requirements • Develop communication strategies for public support.
Target group and end users	Communities, local and regional authorities, public and public equivalent bodies such as universities and spatial planning bodies.
Potential Outputs and Outcomes to be achieved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D/Knowledge transfer network inventory of possible renewable energy resources of the region • Feasibility studies • Produce a publication/report on stimulation of renewable energy in LES and the success factors and barriers • Decision tool, business model, business-case (including organizational aspects) for development of renewable energy

	<p>systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale showroom for educational purposes • Policy documents and climate plans • Inventory of best practices and resources • other
Possible Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term reduction in use of energy based on fossils • Long term reduction in CO₂-emissions • Strategies and plans for implementation of renewables in Local Energy Systems

Carbon Capture and Storage & Carbon Sinks (CCS & CS)

Soils, Forest, regenerative agriculture and oceans are all natural reservoirs that can accumulate and store carbon for an indefinite period of time. In other words, they are natural carbon sinks. Through different types of innovations, the natural sequestration that takes place in these reservoirs can be enhanced either by artificial means (e.g. Carbon sequestration from fossil fuels and biomass and artificially storage, Carbon Capture and Storage) or more naturally (e.g. enhancing the density of carbon in agriculture and in forests, Carbon Sinks).

There are both business potentials and planning and leadership challenges in CCS & CS, as a mean of climate change mitigation.

Carbon Capture and Storage & Carbon Sinks	
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop new local and regional approaches for enhancing natural carbon sequestration through forestry, land use and land use change planning and management • To raise public awareness of challenges and opportunities in the field of Carbon Capture and Storage & Carbon Sinks. • To identify opportunities for regional cooperation on CCS & CS and to establish channels to transfer knowledge among regions
Methodology	<p>The proposed methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review approaches/ developments in partner regions and elsewhere, to assess current progress to identify best practices and partners that have innovative ideas and would like to upgrade practices • Compare existing practices within regions/countries involved and start up of partnership processes between the regions to define key possible innovative ideas and agreements on possible joint actions • Engage with different relevant initiatives on CCS & CS elsewhere • Establish partnership processes on local/regional level with the purpose of developing agreements on policy and action • Review the ideas and compare them with key topics/challenges in the regions involved and wider/EU level • Benchmarking and detection of best practices to prepare guidelines and policy recommendations
Target group and end users	Local and regional authorities, public bodies, universities, business and companies, chambers, individuals, National governments and the EU Commission.

<p>Potential outputs and outcomes to be achieved:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for Carbon Capture and Storage & Carbon Sinks, including recommendations and information about developments, regulation, finances, insurances, project operation and policy • Feasibility studies and other studies (state of the art + possible solution) on certain topics and comparison of the possible solutions among partners • Implementation of plans, policies and strategies at local and regional level for enhancing natural Carbon Sinks, for instance carbon capture strategies by planning and management, changing land use and land use management, reduce risk of fire, forest pests and other risk, reforestation and deforestation strategies • Publication of results, best practices manuals and standards for the management of CCS & CS projects, including case studies from the participating actors, shared experiences, benchmarking results and do and don't lists • Development of decision tools, economic instruments, territorial planning models, business models and business case for enhancing natural Carbon Sinks and Carbon Capture and Storage • Development of regional or interregional voluntary carbon market models for carbon credits based on forest and land use schemes
<p>Possible indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term improvement of the effect of CCS & CS to reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere • New and more efficient and sustainable solutions introduced in participating regions • Number of local/regional policies influenced by the project

Sustainable Procurement Practices (SPP)

Public authorities in Europe spend €1.5 trillion a year on goods and services equivalent to 16 % of EU GDP. 65 % of this amount is spent by authorities at the regional and local level. The sums are substantial as are the possibilities to influence, move and change markets.

Sustainable procurement means thinking carefully about what you buy, purchasing products and services with high environmental performance, always considering the social and economic impacts.

This sub-theme is about enhancing policy development by exploring ways to stimulate Sustainable Procurement Practices as a tool for local and regional sustainable development. The ambitious aim is to reach agreements between local and regional bodies on policy and action for more low carbon economy regions. Focus should be on more sustainable solutions in transport and building, preferably seen in a systems perspective.

Sustainable Procurement Practices (SPP)	
Aims	Agreements on policy and action between participating municipalities and regions regarding SPP, supporting low carbon economy regions. Focus on areas of solutions, which have strong potential to reduce CO ₂ -emissions. Also meaning combining public procurement with other means of action for sustainable development available at the local/regional level.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review developments in partner regions and elsewhere, to assess current progress to identify best practice in sustainable public procurement • Establish partnership processes on local/regional level with the purpose of developing agreements on policy and action • Engage with different relevant initiatives on SPP elsewhere • Within the established network present results at the SPP and other conferences on the activities of the sub project • Produce a 'do's and don'ts'/recommendation publication on SPP
Target group and end users	Municipalities and local and regional authorities, public bodies, universities, business and companies. National governments and EU-commission.
Potential outputs and outcomes to be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements on policy and action between at least three participants concerning questions like procurement of environmentally friendlier cars, infrastructure for a more sustainable transport system, more energy efficient

<p>achieved:</p>	<p>solutions when building and rebuilding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of existing solutions in procurement practices with possible recommendations for improvement • Decision tools and methods to integrate demands on sustainability in public procurement, considering procurement rules and economic framework • Establishment of a network on SPP questions in EU and for Sustainable European Regions (SERN) • Publication of findings and results. Also containing case studies from the participating actors, benchmarking results and do and don't list.
<p>Possible indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public purchase, with demands on sustainability, with 10 % • Long term reduction in energy consumption and CO₂ emissions • New and more efficient and sustainable solutions of public procurement introduced in participating regions

Low Carbon Territorial planning:

Territorial Planning plays a key role in delivering Low Carbon Economy. Land use regulation becomes a powerful tool, when it comes to contributing to CO₂-emissions reduction and promoting alternative energy schemes. Compact city planning and sprawl prevention minimise the need of private, motorised transport. Efficient cities including new public transport schemes, renewable in district heating systems and low carbon waste-, water- and sewerage plans are all tools to reduce CO₂-emissions.

This theme will help to increase knowledge and concern in public authorities and exchange of information from experiences that can be transferred to local practice.

Low Carbon Territorial planning:	
Aims	Stimulate and support the Low Carbon in territorial planning at regional or local level to initiate new approaches in territorial planning.
Methodology	The project methodology will include one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review developments in partner regions to assess current progress and identify best practices and possible solutions on how low carbon issues are implemented in Territorial Planning • Development of methods to implement low carbon strategies in Territorial Planning and Sector Planning • Identifying models and tools for territorial governance, e.g. public private partnership • Set up and test innovative methodologies to assess and quantify the carbon emissions related to territorial plans.
Target group and end users	Local and regional authorities, public bodies, universities, spatial planning bodies.
Potential Outputs and Outcomes to be achieved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A publication or report to describe "Best Practices" of Low Carbon Territorial Planning • Model for indicators or other decision tools, to improve the transparency on how "low carbon" and climate issues are integrated in Territorial Planning • Strategies and plans which demonstrate long term decoupling growth from carbon emission
Possible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff members in core functions, who have increased their capacity and capability to implement low carbon issues in Territorial Planning • Low carbon strategies and policy documents are prepared and ready for implementation

Public as driver for Low-Carbon Economy (Empowerment)

Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to influence and make choices and to transform these choices into desired actions and outcomes. Empowered public will have an incentive to make both political and market demands. If empowered public feel that their actions matter, then they can function as agents of change. Central to this process are actions, which both build individual and collective assets, and improve the efficiency and fairness of the organizational and institutional context that govern the use of these assets.

Sub-projects within this topic will focus on enabling the local public as a driver for low carbon economies and can focus on four aspects of practices:

- access to information
- inclusion and participation
- accountability
- local organizational capacity

Public as driver for Low-Carbon Economy (Empowerment)	
Aims	<p>To develop new approaches to empowerment, especially of the young generation.</p> <p>To connect local players and engage those in the innovative empowering projects that would lead to changes in approaches and policies in the local or regional partners involved.</p> <p>Focus should be on approaches that would lead to new practical solutions, dealing with access to information, inclusion and participation, accountability or local organizational capacity.</p> <p>Provide communication models to ensure needed information is spread, to improve the processes of empowering</p>
Methodology	<p>The proposed methodology;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review different approaches in partner regions and elsewhere, to assess current progress to identify best practices • Review the availability of reliable information on empowerment in the context of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) • Provide communication models to ensure needed information is spread, to improve the processes of empowering • Set up assessment method for identifying the good and effective practices suitable to be transferred to other regions and partners that have innovative ideas and would like to upgrade practices • Identify key challenges in the regions involved, where empowerment should focus • Involvement of empowered people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare existing practices within regions involved and start a process between the partner authorities and representatives of the citizens and other relevant parties to define key innovative ideas and agree on joint actions • Prepare a short overview of findings of selected ideas and policy recommendations • Promote the selected ideas in networks at regional, national and international level, at conferences, on website
Target group and end users	Local and regional authorities, public bodies, universities, schools, SME's and bigger companies, chambers, individuals (e.g. youngsters, farmers experts in empowerment), National governments and EU-commission.
Potential outputs and outcomes to be achieved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D knowledge network among young researchers and schools from regions involved with small pilots • Small scale showroom for educational purposes • Possible joint educational programs (informal/formal) • Establishing the background for "climate change" to share the knowledge of necessity of reducing CO₂-emissions and implications for the nature and to upgrade innovation spirit and encourage to empowerment • Overview of best practices, and in addition conclusions from joint pilot testing in regions involved • New ways of promoting "empowerment" to support and develop Low carbon Regions • Agreements on action plan between at least three different partners concerning questions of empowerment; • Publication of findings and results
Possible indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgraded knowledge on empowerment, new tools and policies on how to develop ways include and engage citizens, organizations and other relevant parties. • Long term reduction in energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. • New strategy for education in climate change on the bases of pilot preparation and testing. A base for preparing curriculum and ready to implement.