

Press release

For immediate release

Local Renewables Conference 2014 calls for a transition to energy productive cities and regions

Freiburg & Lörrach, Germany, 24 October 2014 – The Local Renewables Conference 2014, which focused on the role of cities and regions in transitioning to sustainable energy, concluded on Friday 24 October. For the first time, the conference was organised with two host cities. In addition to long standing partner the City of Freiburg (Germany), the City of Lörrach (Germany) joined with ICLEI to organise and co-host this year's edition, the 6th in the conference series.

The ongoing economic crisis, growing energy instability, and resource scarcity call for a shift to a sustainable economy. The Local Renewables Conference put particular emphasis on the key role of the local level, as well as the importance of renewable energy and the improvement of energy efficiency in this shift. More than 30 experts from around the globe shared their insight, experiences and thoughts on how regional development can drive the renewable energy transition.

Local government speakers included mayors and deputy mayors from Paris (France), Suwon (Republic of Korea) and Tirana (Albania), as well as representatives from the cities of Basel (Switzerland), Stockholm (Sweden), Almada (Portugal) and Tilburg (The Netherlands). Representatives from the European Commission, European Investment Bank, GIZ, universities and consultancies were also among the speakers of the conference.

Ms Célia Blauel, Deputy Mayor in charge of Environmental Sustainability and Water, City of Paris, presented the city's plans in its drive to enhance green energy. 'The use of the city's purchasing power is key for a transition to renewable energy. There is a considerable potential for savings, with currently €36 million per annum worth of electricity consumed within the City of Paris. Both public investments as well as - increasingly - new financing mechanisms like crowdfunding will foster this transition,' she said.

Eugenio Leanza from the European Investment Bank (EIB) called for a strong shift of investments towards a place-based approach, one that is oriented towards the needs and opportunities of local communities and ensures that benefits can be yielded locally.

Concluding the conference, Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director for ICLEI Europe, said: 'Renewable Energy is a positive driver of investment, jobs and local economic development. It yields the resources for the development of cities and regions. Going forward, we need to make citizens investors in renewable energy schemes through lowering the threshold to investment. In this way, we can enable them to become both consumers and producers. Let's join our intelligence, motivation and forces to make this a reality.'

Throughout the conference, a call for regional economic development perspectives driven by regional resources, regional capital and regional actors was issued. Delegates concluded that the transition to an energy productive city region should be based on a participatory and transparent approach, ensuring quality of life for all citizens.

For more information, visit the [Local Renewables conference website](#).

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Background:

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the world's leading association of cities and local governments dedicated to sustainable development. ICLEI is a powerful movement of 12 mega-cities, 100 super-cities, 450 large cities and urban regions as well as 450 small and medium-sized cities and towns in 83 countries. ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim to achieve healthy and happy communities.

More information:

Local Renewables conference website: www.local-renewables-conference.org

Follow live tweets by using the hashtag [#LocalRenewables](#).

Twitter account: [@LR_Series](#)

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