

Towards the 10th WALCC anniversary in Lahti

10th – 11th May 2022

The World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities held its first bi-annual Forum in Europe in Espoo, Finland in 2012. This event provided the foundation for joining private and public interests under the umbrella of the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities to bring low-carbon development forward on an international basis.



'Glasgow Green - march for the climate' by QUENTIN BRUNO is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Today, addressing climate change has become the major topic for both politicians and business executives. The Glasgow COP 26 witnessed youth activists across the world calling for swift actions in a demand to combat the global heating crisis. COP26 saw an estimated 125,000 demonstrators take to the streets of Glasgow for the Friday for Future and Global Day of Action for Climate Justice demonstrations led by activists including Greta Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate.

The Alliance's Chinese branch hosted the 20th Forum in Shenzhen on October 30th & 31st. The Forum was organized by the Alliance together with the Carbon Neutralization Research Center of Tsinghua University, Shenzhen Qingxin Power Research Institute, and Chongqing Low-Carbon Technology Center.

The Forum brought together scientists in carbon neutralization-related fields, industry research experts and scholars, investment and financing experts, and entrepreneurs in carbon neutralization related industries for discussion on the themes and how they can work together toward China's 2060 goal. Leading Chinese experts were joined by members of the European branch of the Alliance. Invited to contribute to the Forum, Co-Founder and Honorary Chairman Johan Wallin, Synocus, delivered an opening address alongside Professors Kang Feiyu and Kong Ying while Kari Lahti of Fortum provided a keynote address on how sustainable district heating can support the transition of energy infrastructures.

The European branch of the Alliance, strongly rooted in Finland, will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Alliance by sharing achievements in low-carbon development this coming spring. The Forum will be devoted to accelerating joint action on our four focus areas: urban planning, urban transport, green building and renewable resources. The natural site for our anniversary is, therefore, the city of Lahti, which, in 2021, served as the European role model for sustainability as the European Green Capital of the year. Lahti has also committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2025, ten years ahead of the Finnish government's ambition to be carbon neutral in 2035.

Over its ten-year history, the Alliance has promoted low-carbon development across these focus areas. In the mobility sector, Valmet Automotive, one of the founding members, has become a leader in the electrification of transport. Sino-Finnish collaboration in renewable resources has been spurred in the Excellence in Renewal initiative, seeing Fortum innovate approaches to collaborating with cities in decarbonizing heating and cooling. The City of Turku has evolved as an example for how city planning must comprehensively engage and embrace local, national, and international interests when the environment is changing. Green building unites public and private interests in the City of Tampere in the development of the new Hiedanranta district. All these exciting undertakings will be the subject of lively discussion at the WALCC Forum in Lahti in 2022.

The WALCC Autumn Webinar 24th November 2021

To prepare for the Alliance's 10th anniversary at the Sibelius Hall in Lahti, we will host an afternoon webinar on Wednesday, November 24th. The WALCC Autumn Forum will bring together like-minded peers engaged in transformational collaboration. You will hear the experiences from cities working to realize smart, sustainable transformations, researchers supporting them with leading-edge research, and companies whose initiatives are needed to achieve systemic

transformations. We are pleased to present speakers from Borealis, Fortum, Neste, Posintra, Unieke, Wolt, the University of Tampere, Wapice, Skanska, and Dublin. The speakers will discuss the Alliance's four focus areas, Green building, Urban mobility, Urban planning, and Renewable resources. Particular emphasis will be placed on how companies and cities can work together more effectively in the future.

Three themes recur across our city-company projects: energy, mobility, and collaboration:

Energy infrastructure

Electrification will drive the energy sector over the coming decades, with hydrogen in a key role. Various areas relating to the hydrogen economy are still in a phase of intensive development. This offers extraordinary opportunities for productive public-private collaboration.

Mobility regimes

While the technology to realize sustainable urban transportation already exists, the system-wide societal mobility transformation remains in its early stages. Carbon-free urban mobility will require a new infrastructure. This will call for innovative solutions to urban living, reducing the overall need for transport, and increasing the attractiveness of public transport.

Transformational collaboration

Rapid decarbonization requires collaboration between companies and the public sector. The questions of Why and What are now obvious to most of us. The key question is How? Bringing together individuals who can genuinely make the change happen is the ultimate success factor when driving transformations.

WALCC webinar agenda, November 24th, 2021

13:00 - 13:05	Welcome and opening words:	Peter Lindgren, Vice-Chairman, WALCC
13:05 - 13:45	Driving regional transformation	Fredrik Pressler, Posintra Heidi Bergman, Neste Jari Koivumäki, Borealis
13:45 - 14:25	Nordic superblocks: green, smart cities	Markus Laine, Tampere University Toni Tuomola, Skanska Reijo Väliharju, Hiedanrannan kehitys Jari Kuusisto, Wapice
14:25 - 14:40	Reflections on regional transformation	
14:40 - 14:50	Coffee break	
14:50 - 15:30	Pioneering the energy transition	Kari Lahti, Fortum e-Next Éddie Conroy, Case Dublin Ilkka Toijala, Case Espoo
15:30 - 16:10	Reframing logistics flows	Johan Wallin, Synocus Olli Koski, Wolt Vesa Kiviranta, Unieke
16:10 - 16:30	What have we learned about decarbonization collaboration and what next?	General discussion

Those interested in joining the webinar,
please register on our website www.walcc.org and join the discussion!



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