



# Welcome to a



# WALCC

World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

# breakfast webinar



## Can Finland become a role model of decarbonization?

The European Union has mandated carbon neutrality by 2050 and is incentivizing pioneers through its 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 mission. Finland has limited political influence globally. However, its strong industry offers opportunities to have an impact greater than its size. Decarbonization requires collaboration and Finland's has a proven capacity for collaboration. Could this make Finland a role model of decarbonization?

With the "Can Finland become a role model of decarbonization?" webinar, the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities aims to open a discussion on how Finland and its partners can take an active role in shaping a climate-neutral and smart future. The webinar will provide different viewpoints on this topic.

**Markku Markkula**, with his long history of political engagement on local, regional, national, and European levels, will share his vision on how the ambitious Finnish climate neutrality targets can be reached. He tackles multilevel governance by describing issues such as orchestration, bench-learning, and co-creating place-based innovation ecosystems.

**Mikko Puustinen** will share his views of the potential for collaboration in the field of energy and circular economy between Finland and China.

**Taina Tukiainen** offers perspectives from different cities based on her research engagement with the University of Vaasa, the University of Turku, and Aalto University.

**Pasi Mikkonen** will, in turn, bring to the table the private-sector's views on collaborating with public-sector actors and exporting Finnish cleantech expertise in Europe and beyond.

### Agenda

8:00	Opening of webinar, introduction of speakers	<b>Pasi Mikkonen</b> , Chairman, WALCC
8:05	<b>Keynote address</b> on the EU's 100 Climate-neutral & Smart Cities Mission and how Finland can become a role model of decarbonization	<b>Markku Markkula</b> , Committee of the Regions, European Union
8:15	<b>Finland's decarbonization collaboration:</b> case China	<b>Mikko Puustinen</b> , Ministerial Adviser, Unit for EU and International Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland
8:25	<b>How can cities engage stakeholders</b> for decarbonization collaboration?	<b>Taina Tukiainen</b> , Research Director, University of Vaasa
8:35	<b>Panel discussion</b> and questions from the audience	<b>Pasi Mikkonen, Markku Markkula, Mikko Puustinen &amp; Taina Tukiainen</b> ; moderated by <b>Johan Wallin</b> , Honorary Chairman, WALCC,
8:50	<b>Next steps:</b> bringing the vision to the WALCC Lahti Forum 10.-11.5.2021	

The webinar is open to anyone interested. **You can sign up for the webinar from this link.** WALCC members will receive a direct calendar invitation to the webinar and are encouraged to share the invitation with colleagues.

Please contact **Jussi Hulkkonen** ([jussi.hulkkonen@walcc.org](mailto:jussi.hulkkonen@walcc.org)) if you have any questions.

## Advancing Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities in Finland

The European Union is incentivizing pioneers through its 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities by 2030 mission, with initial funding exceeding €300 million until 2023 through Horizon Europe. These pioneering cities shall act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

Cities are the place where decarbonization strategies for energy, transport, buildings, and even industry and agriculture coexist and intersect. The climate emergency must be tackled within cities and by engaging citizens who are not only political actors in a governance structure, but also users, producers, consumers, and owners. In addition, the innovations needed to accelerate the change will require strong collaboration between leading companies and local and national authorities.

The World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities aims to support leading cities to become vanguards of decarbonization in Europe. Finnish cities that have applied to become one of the 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities include Espoo, twice voted the most sustainable city in Europe,

and Lahti, the 2021 European Green Capital. This shows the strong Finnish commitment to the European decarbonization agenda.

Espoo's Mayor Jukka Mäkelä recently met with EU Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans to discuss how Espoo's innovation community can contribute solutions to European efforts to reduce emissions. Both Espoo Mayor Mäkelä and Lahti Mayor Pekka Timonen will join the Alliance's Forum in Lahti this spring to share their insights on the journey towards climate-neutrality. The Forum in Lahti will also welcome other leading cities from Finland and Europe to actively engage in defining a joint action plan for how the Alliance can best contribute to the acceleration of decarbonization in Finland and Europe.

## WALCC Forum May 10-11, 2022, in Lahti

When the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities was founded in 2012, its vision was to engage cities, companies, academia, and research in joint efforts to speed up decarbonization was not yet as topical as it is today. Now, on the cusp of the Alliance's 10th anniversary, decarbonization has moved to the epicenter of both political and commercial agendas across the world.

The Alliance can build on a decade of efforts to promote low-carbon initiatives domestically and internationally. It is encouraging that our Forum in Lahti will see some of those organizations with whom we started the journey join us again to reflect upon what we have learned, and also provide guidance for how to move forward.

The strong engagement of young people in the decarbonization transformation was catalyzed by activists like Greta Thunberg. Now many young people are deeply concerned about us being too slow to address the climate challenges. This has motivated the board

of the WALCC to engage with students from Finland's leading universities to jointly build the program for the 10th Anniversary Forum. We expect that extending the dialogue to also engage students will provide fresh perspectives on the transformation to climate-neutrality alongside the aforementioned strong partners.

**Follow our website for more announcements on the Forum!**

