

Driving Resilient Decarbonization

the 10th Anniversary of the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

May 10th - 11th 2022

Sibelius Hall, Lahti



Shaping a climate-neutral, resilient Europe

When the European Union launched its 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission on November 25th, 2021, it did not foresee the drastic changes that would take hold of the world in the first months of the new year. Nonetheless, the objectives outlined remain equally relevant and urgent today. With 377 European cities expressing their interest in joining the group of pioneering European cities leading urban decarbonization, it is a great honor for Finland that six Finnish cities qualified to join this distinguished group: Espoo, Helsinki, Lahti, Lappeenranta, Tampere, and Turku. The WALCC is pleased to have all six of these cities represented in our program at the Forum in Lahti.

To drive resilient decarbonization we must be able to adapt while also making decisions in the context of the unfolding new landscape, which will only gradually become clear to us. In such situations we must decide whom we can trust and how we can work with our trusted partners to secure the best possible future. The notion of resilience means that we must also consider our role as part of the comprehensive security system of Europe. This system must be built on trust. Finland as a role model of trust has here an important role to play.

This new geopolitical context frames the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities's annual Forum. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sown uncertainty and tension

throughout the world which has far-reaching impacts. This has also influenced the Forum's program. Driving decarbonization must now be accompanied by securing resilience.

We are pleased to welcome our partners, stakeholders, and new faces to Lahti this spring for a long overdue opportunity to gather in person and engage in discussion and cooperation in the dynamic environment offered by the WALCC Forum. From the public sector we welcome EU and national government officials as well as city leadership. From the private sector we are pleased to welcome, in addition to our key partners, speakers from leading companies promoting decarbonization.

This Forum also revives a tradition of engaging academia through not only the institutions and leading professors but also students. The Forum will see the participation of professors and students from Aalto University, Tampere University, LUT University, University of Turku, and the University of Vaasa.

There is still room for improvisation and the program can still be influenced, so any suggestions are welcome, and can be directed to Jussi Hulkkonen. (firstname.lastname@walcc.org)



Overview of the forum program

Tuesday, May 10th

09:00-09:30 Registration and Coffee

09:30-10:00 **Welcome and opening words**

10:00-11:00 **The World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities and the new order** panel discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 **Corporations pioneering resilient decarbonization** panel discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 **Challenges facing the European energy landscape** panel discussion

14:30-15:00 Coffee break

15:00-16:00 **Cities in a dynamically evolving European context** panel discussion

16:00-16:45 **Co-creating the future of the WALCC** interactive discussion

17:00-18:00 Reception sponsored by the City of Lahti

Wednesday, May 11th

09:00-09:05 Welcome and program review

09:05-10:05 **Cities driving both decarbonization and resilience** panel discussion

10:05-10:25 Coffee break

10:25-11:25 **Companies supporting urban resilience** panel discussion

11:25-12:30 **WALCC as catalyst towards global decarbonization** hybrid concluding discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch

NOTE: The program might still change in details. An up-to-date version is on our walcc.org website

Carbon-neutral Lahti 2025

Lahti is the leading green city in Finland and a leader of environmental work: Lahti has already abandoned the use of coal and will become a carbon-neutral city by 2025 as the first major city in Finland.

Sibelius Hall, Lahti

Sibelius Hall is located by the beautiful Lake Vesijärvi. Sibelius Hall is a congress- and concert center that offers diverse services for both consumers and companies. Address: Ankkurikatu 7, 15140 Lahti

Hotel information

For those seeking accommodation for the duration of the Forum, we recommend the following three hotels near the center of Lahti. Use the dedicated reservation codes listed next to each hotel when making your individual booking.

GreenStar Hotel Lahti (greenstar.fi): Single (€84/night) and Double (€93/night) rooms available – Booking code WALCC

Scandic Lahti City (scandichotels.com): Single (€102/night) and double (€122/night) rooms available – Booking code 47961532

Sokos Hotel Lahden Seurahuone (sokoshotels.fi): Single (from €141/night) and double (from €161/night) available

Tickets and registration

Registration for the Forum is open now.

See our website for registration details (walcc.org)

Two-day passes to the Forum are available for €250 +VAT.

The panels and speakers

TUE

09:30

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10:00

Welcome and opening words

On behalf of the WALCC Board and the founders of the association, the Chair and Vice Chair will outline the 10th Anniversary Forum. Opening addresses from the City of Lahti and the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will set the stage.

Pekka Timonen, Mayor of the City of Lahti

Mikko Puustinen, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Kang Feiyu, Professor, Tsinghua University, Honorary Chair of the WALCC

Pasi Mikkonen, Chair of the WALCC

Peter Lindgren, Vice-Chair of the WALCC

TUE

10:00

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11:00

The World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities and the new order

This panel will provide an overview of the achievements of the WALCC during its first decade, starting with the Eco Urban Living project, which helped Espoo become the pioneer of electric mobility and Valmet Automotive enter collaboration with CATL to become a leader in battery packs. The main part of the panel discussion will be devoted to the potential of the WALCC as a collaboration platform, based on the ideas of national resilience and long-term viability. The discussion will also address the impact of geopolitical turbulence on companies as they drive decarbonization.

Moderator: **Johan Wallin**, Honorary Chair, WALCC

Mari Päätaalo, Development Manager, Sustainability, City of Espoo

Hanna Uusitalo, Environmental Director, KONE Corporation

Jarkko Sairanen, Chair of the Board, Valmet Automotive

Mikko Kosonen, Chair of the Board, Aalto University

TUE

11:30

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12:30

Corporations pioneering resilient decarbonization

ABB and Fortum will share their experiences of balancing the conflicting interests facing global companies in the present state of radical uncertainty. Their reflections will be commented on by professors from Aalto University and LUT University.

Moderator: **Sanna Syri**, Professor, Aalto University

Jero Ahola, Professor, LUT University

Simo Säynevirta, Director, ABB

Pasi Mikkonen, Vice President, Investments, Fortum

Peter Lindgren, Vice President, Drives, ABB

TUE

13:30

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14:30

Challenges facing the European energy landscape

This panel will focus on the new Energy landscape with the cases Espoo, South Dublin, and Kilpilahti offering perspectives on collaboration between companies and the public sector. Caruna and Wärtsilä will complement the discussion with their view on the interplay between technology, regulation and decarbonization.

Moderator: **Fredrik Pressler**, CEO, Posintra

Jari Lehtinen, Program Manager, Borealis

Noora Neilimo-Kontio, Head of Regulation and Strategy, Caruna

Kari Lahti, General Manager, Fortum eNext

Tony Meski, Senior Market Analyst, Wärtsilä

Eddie Conroy, County Architect, South Dublin

TUE

15:00

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16:00

Cities in a dynamically evolving European context

Lahti and Turku, both among the EU 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities, have ambitious decarbonization targets that they fulfill by working with companies. Kempower and Unikie are companies working with these cities, and they will present how to establish fruitful, path-breaking public-private collaboration.

Moderator: **Patrik Laxell**, Associate Partner, Synocus

Elina Ojala, Environmental Director, City of Lahti

Pekka Sundman, Director of Regional Cooperation, City of Turku

Mikko Veikkolainen, CTO, Kempower

Esko Mertsalmi, Chair, Unikie

WED

09:05

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10:05

Cities driving both decarbonization and resilience

This panel will begin with discussion of the different layers of decarbonization collaboration: international, national, and regional. The panel poses the question: how can a city be a civic platform supporting citizen collaboration and bottom-up activities while also providing top-down direction and orchestration to secure the need to accelerate decarbonization and strengthen resilience.

Moderator: **Taina Tukiainen**, Research Director, University of Vaasa

Milla Bruneau, former Executive Director, Lahti–European Green Capital 2021

Anne Stenros, CEO, Creative Catalyst

Mika Hakosalo, City Development Director, Vaasa & Pietarsaari

Senni Raunio, Specialist, Climate Leadership Coalition

Lennart Widelöv, Founder, Resilient Regions Association

WED

10:25

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11:25

Companies supporting urban resilience

Cities must strengthen their cooperation with the private sector to fulfill their longer-term ambitions towards carbon neutrality. Here, there is a high need for innovations to speed up the transformation. In this panel we will hear the views of companies with complementary strengths: Skanska, Vaisala, and Fidelix who will share how they intend to work together with Tampere, also a EU 100 Climate-neutral and Smart City pioneer. The ambition is to initiate a new project, Nordic Superblocks as Decarbonization Catalysts, with intended pilot cases in Tampere, Espoo, and Helsinki.

Moderator: **Markus Laine**, Senior Lecturer, Tampere University

Toni Tuomola, District Manager, Skanska Finland

Kari Kankaala, Director, City of Tampere

Iiro Salkari, Head of Portfolio, Weather and Environment, Vaisala

Ilkka Vähämöttönen, Business Director, Fidelix

WED

11:25

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12:30

WALCC as catalyst towards global decarbonization

Concluding hybrid discussion with guidance from experts. To ensure the best possible outcome of the mutual efforts supported by the WALCC, we will hear viewpoints from the EU, China and the WALCC board about how we can address the joint task of speeding up resilient decarbonization.

Eero Ailio, DG Energy, European Commission

Jiao Fengshun, Director, China Southern Power Grid

Kang Feiyu, Professor, Tsinghua University

New initiatives in 2022

The Alliance is pursuing decarbonization through numerous initiatives launching in 2022, addressing:

The way we live and how our cities are designed:

The Nordic Superblocks as Decarbonization Catalysts (NSDC) initiative, launched by Skanska, Tampere University (TUNI), and their partners, will address the need to rapidly increase the transition towards zero-emission buildings and carbon-neutral living. The initiative aims to achieve this by forming a new, sustainable concept for urban planning and development. Building on the achievements of superblocks in cities like Barcelona, the Nordic Superblock concept is a community-driven, collaborative model for a smart, shared way of living. NSDC will develop a platform for digital solutions and sustainable technologies that puts research into practice in the formation of new city districts in pilot cities in Finland with an eye to taking these solutions to the world.

The way we power a sustainable world

The Baltic Grid Lab initiative, coordinated by Vaasa University and Synocus, integrates resilience, decarbonization, and electrification into a transformational electrification learning platform to accelerate cross-national, cross-sectoral, and multi-level collaboration to meet the new European energy infrastructure demands resulting from the war in Ukraine. By establishing an innovation community, the BGL initiative will address what new capabilities and investments are needed to cope with the new demands on a resilient energy infrastructure by sharing experiences across different local contexts to speed up learning and promote innovation across Europe.

The way we can learn from each other in decarbonizing

Through the Source-Grid-Load-Storage Flexible Power Distribution System Supporting Low-carbon Cities (SGLS) initiative, WALCC founding members Synocus and Tsinghua University together with China Southern Power Grid work to transfer learnings and technology from the Nordics to China to support China in its effort to reach carbon neutrality by 2060. The SGLS initiative furthers the formation of collaboration models that facilitate the sharing of these critical technologies and solutions between providers and the cities that need them.

To hear more about these efforts, get in touch with us!



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