



Driving Decarbonization: Accelerating Co-Learning

workshop

**Old Student House (Vanha), Helsinki
November 22nd, 2022 (9:00-17:00)**

The war in Ukraine and the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipeline present Europe with a geopolitical uncertainty not experienced since World War II. While we cannot yet predict the political outcome of the crisis, one thing is certain: dependence on fossil energy must be quickly reduced.

At our 10th anniversary Forum in Lahti in May we foresaw the need to accelerate learning on speeding up decarbonization and improving public-private collaboration to deal with climate change and energy supply. On November 22nd, 2022, at the Old Student House in Helsinki, we are delighted to share what we have learned thus far and what we want to do next.

The expected energy shortage during the coming winter means that cities are now at center stage when meeting the problems that arise. As these challenges will continue, we must both deal with the short-term requirements and simultaneously build a new world order enabling us to get out of the present deadlock. Accelerated decarbonization is here key.

Over the past summer, the Alliance supported many different initiatives that bring together businesses and cities for the purpose of initiating new pilots and demonstrations to speed up the transformation towards a decarbonized future. These efforts have also shown the importance of finding the right topics that are able to catalyze concrete collaboration. Here, we have used the concept of Viability Advantage to better communicate

to different stakeholders the requirements of the new type of collaboration called for and help them get started with the practical work. These experiences will form the core of the discussion at the Old Student House.

Driving decarbonization is now also strongly supported by both the EU, through its missions, and Business Finland, with its recent launch of the Decarbonized Cities program. We will also share experiences from these initiatives at our event. First and foremost, however, we want to engage all participants in an active dialogue on how we can more effectively address the issue of urban decarbonization.

Our ambition with the “Driving Decarbonization: Accelerating Co-Learning” workshop is to drive action. Throughout the day, we will provide brief introductions to the topics of urban planning, urban transport, green building, and renewable resources and then enthusiastically discuss with our peers how we can concretely address these topics in our future work. The outcome of these discussions will then guide the activities for WALCC for the coming years.

Active development among the WALCC's extended network

The City of Vaasa is working with Tietoevry and Wärtsilä to pioneer solutions in the energy sector which may also be leveraged through the recently established Sustainable Technology Hub, a €250 million investment by Wärtsilä.

The City of Espoo and Fortum have, since 2014, worked to decarbonize the city's heating network in the Clean Heat project, which is working to close the last coal plant by 2026 and utilize waste heat among other sustainable sources. Fortum is already applying these experiences with e.g., South Dublin in Ireland.

The City of Tampere, meanwhile, has taken an ambitious approach to the planning and development of the Hiedanranta district, working collaboratively with the local community to ensure its sustainability and livability. Skanska is actively supporting this development.

The City of Lahti is tackling mobility as the most significant source of emissions in the city. This work is being done with local businesses like Kempower as well as LUT university which appointed Lassi Aarniovuori as Finland's first professor in electric mobility.

Program

- 9:00 – 9:30** **Welcome & introduction**
Jyrki Alkio, Chief Specialist at Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland
Mikko Kosonen, Chair, Aalto University
- 9:30 – 10:30** **What means do we have to change urban mobility?**
Case Lahti – 15min. introduction by
Elina Ojala, Environmental Director, City of Lahti
Mikko Veikkolainen, CTO, Kempower
45min. small-group discussions
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:00** **How can cities orchestrate their own ecosystems?**
Case Vaasa – 15min. introduction by
Tomas Häyry, Mayor, City of Vaasa
Petri Helo, Professor, University of Vaasa, Chair of the board, Wapice
45min. small-group discussions
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 13:30** **Why is public-private collaboration now more important than ever?**
Panel discussion with WALCC Board members & discussion with the audience
Chair Pasi Mikkonen, Vice President, Investments, Fortum
Vice-Chair Peter Lindgren, Vice President, Drives, ABB
Toni Tuomola, District Manager, Skanska Finland
Elina Ojala, Environmental Director, City of Lahti
Pekka Sundman, Director of Regional Cooperation, City of Turku
- 13:30 – 14:30** **How to collaborate in urban planning?**
Case Tampere – 15min. introduction by
Markus Laine, Senior Lecturer, Tampere University
Toni Tuomola, District Manager, Skanska Finland
45min. small-group discussions
- 14:30 – 15:30** **What does the changing energy landscape mean for cities?**
Case Espoo – 15min. introduction by
Elina Wanne, Development Manager sustainable development - energy, the City of Espoo
Mikko Blomqvist, Development Manager, Fortum
45min. small-group discussions
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 – 16:30** **Transcending public-private collaboration aiming for Viability Advantage**
Mikko Kosonen, Chair, Aalto Yliopisto
- 16:30 – 17:00 **What next? Concluding discussion on accelerating co-learning in decarbonization**
Johan Wallin, Honorary Chair, WALCC
Markku Markkula, Chair of the Board, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council

See updates to the program and register at [walcc.org/colearning!](https://www.walcc.org/colearning!)