

Transformative innovation in action

23rd Annual Forum of the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

September 19th - 21st 2023

Vaasa, Finland



The 2023 World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities Forum in Vaasa will emphasize international collaboration in the spirit of the EU missions and accelerate the co-implementation of the twin green & digital transition. Vaasa, the Nordic energy capital and a forerunner in decarbonization, will host the forum. By working together with leading green tech companies such as Danfoss, ABB and, Wärtsilä, Vaasa has become a leading energy innovation hub.

Transformative innovation calls for collaboration involving missions, policymakers, innovation agencies, regions, cities, researchers, and industry. The WALCC Forum will bring all these perspectives together to better understand the dynamics of multi-level governance and the means of engaging industry in joint efforts, anchoring the discussions in practical experiences.

A feature of particular interest in Vaasa as an innovation hub is the Aurora Botnia ferry. The new, passenger car ferry is the world's most environmentally friendly and operates daily, between Vaasa and Umeå as well as functioning as a research laboratory for companies in Finland and Sweden. The first day of the Forum will be hosted aboard the Aurora Botnia ferry.



Wärtsilä
Sustainable Technology Hub

The STH is a new integrated center of research, product development and production located in Vaskiluoto, Vaasa. STH is the latest tangible step in Wärtsilä's path to drive decarbonization and an ecosystem of collaboration, functioning locally and globally.



Danfoss
End-to-end efficiency in district heating

Danfoss offers end-to-end software systems and services for the control and optimization of district energy systems. These tools enable utilities and service providers to increase energy efficiency by utilizing connectivity and data-based decision-making.



ABB
Energy Efficiency Movement

ABB launched the Energy Efficiency Movement to bring together all stakeholders to innovate and act for a more energy-efficient, regenerative, adaptive world. ABB believes that, together, we can make a real difference if that's how we decide to use our power.

Overview of the preliminary forum program

Tuesday, September 19th



Multi-level governance with industrial engagement

Conference day on the Wasaline ferry

12:30	Registration and welcome at Wasaline ferry terminal
13:30 - 14:15	Tour of Aurora Botnia ferry
14:15 - 15:15	Multi-level governance in action; EU missions accelerating decarbonization
15:30 - 16:30	Engaging missions & businesses in collaborative decarbonization; panel discussion
16:30 - 18:00	Networking
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner on board; hosted by the City of Vaasa
21:15	Arrival back at Vaasa

Wednesday, September 20th

Driving co-implementation

Conference day in Vaasa

09:00 - 09:05	Welcome and schedule for the day
09:05 - 09:30	Operationalizing transformative innovation policies; Keynote
09:30 - 11:00	Cities as orchestrators; Panel discussion followed by small group discussions based on cases
11:30 - 13:00	Companies as orchestrators; Panel discussion followed by small group discussions based on cases
14:00 - 15:30	Intermediaries as orchestrators; Panel discussion followed by small group discussions based on cases
16:00 - 17:00	Closing session, summerizing activities and networking

Thursday, September 21st

Vaasa as forerunner

Site visits that showcase decarbonization collaboration in the City of Vaasa

Preliminary destinations:

- » Aurora Botnia
- » Wärstilä's Sustainable Technology Hub
- » EnergySampo

World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities



- » Mission: develop the Alliance into a global, professional community uniting leading experts with a strong interest in furthering the development of low-carbon cities. The mission is supported through events like the WALCC Forum and projects that develop solutions for more sustainable cities.
- » Four focus areas: Urban planning, Urban transport, Green building, and Renewable resources.
- » The 2023 board members of WALCC: Pasi Mikkonen, Fortum, Chairman; Peter Lindgren, ABB, Vice Chairman; and Toni Tuomola, Skanska. Jussi Hulkkonen of Synocus is Deputy Secretary-General.
- » As of 2022, the WALCC actively supports cities and regions in their engagement in EU and national missions.

Co-creating the 2023 WALCC Forum in Vaasa

The Forum seeks strong participation from leading companies aiming to strengthen their position in public-private innovation ecosystems to develop new technologies and help leading cities and regions achieve carbon neutrality. The Forum organizers are looking for partners that want to leverage upon the possibility of interacting with other like-minded peers in co-creating the program with the intention to finalize the content of the program during April 2023. Please contact Jussi Hulkkonen (jussi.hulkkonen@walcc.org).

See our website for updates of the forum and registration opening (walcc.org)