



Enabling Tiger Leaps

Forum of the World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

September 17th - 18th 2024

Porvoo, Finland



The World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities (WALCC) will organize its annual Forum together with the City of Porvoo September 17th-18th, 2024. The Forum will showcase how cities aiming for carbon neutrality must simultaneously pursue the transformational agenda across all four of the Alliance's focus areas: Urban Planning, Renewable Resources, Green Building, and Urban Transport.

This year's Forum will provide city decision makers with a comprehensive overview of best practices and key development trends across the Alliance's four focus areas. It will highlight the importance of finding new private-public collaboration models that will also attract international participation. As Finland and Sweden have both now joined NATO, the role of the Nordics as sustainability frontrunners will be strongly present in the Forum. The orchestration challenge is to integrate substantial, processual, temporal, and spatial perspectives when promoting the agenda of carbon neutrality.

The role of the city as the orchestrator of transformational initiatives with strict guidelines and timetables is a new phenomenon in public-private collaboration.

Presently for the City of Porvoo, urban planning strongly relates to the transformation of Kilpilahti, the largest chemical industry center in the Nordic countries. Kilpilahti aims to be carbon neutral by 2035. Part of the solution will be based on the usage of green hydrogen. Hydrogen will provide Finland with unprecedented opportunities to become a leader in renewable energy.

Urban Planning

The built environment is the focus of the Nordic Superblocks as Decarbonization Catalysts initiative. This project provides important insights on how to simultaneously align the interests of cities, companies, and citizens. Here, the local context and collaboration practices define, to a large extent, what is achievable in practice.

Green Building

The Forum provides an excellent opportunity for city managers and planners to share their experiences and learn from each other and accelerate the green transition.

Companies working with cities often like to focus on their own particular area of expertise, may it be in the energy sector or in construction. However, if they can engage more broadly with the city management and position their own contribution in the overarching development agenda of a particular city, they can be even more successful. The Forum offers companies an excellent opportunity to deepen their understanding of the complexity of the challenges facing cities while also improving the possibility to use the public-private collaboration to enable tiger leaps.

The Finnish government and many Finnish cities actively support companies engaged in the hydrogen transformation. With a EUR 45 million subsidy grant, the renewable e-methane production to be established in Lahti was among the winners in the European Hydrogen Bank's first competitive bidding process. This illustrates the potential of Finland in the rapidly evolving transformation of the European energy landscape.

Renewable Resources

The transport sector is strongly driven by global market forces and legislation. Finland hosts companies that have reached a leading international position in the decarbonization of transport. Public-private initiatives are springboards for innovation collaboration, enabling companies to make tiger leaps and see their offerings become international success stories.

Urban Transport

Enabling Tiger Leaps – WALCC Forum Agenda

Tuesday, September 17th – Porvoo site visit

- 12:30-17:00 **Site visits** to Kilpilahti and ABB Smart Buildings.
- 18:00 **Reception Dinner** hosted by City of Porvoo at Restaurant Sinne

Wednesday, September 18th – at the Art factory, Porvoo

- 08:30 Registration and coffee
- 09:00 **Opening addresses**
Anna-Kaisa Ikonen, Minister of Local and Regional Government
Peter Lindgren, Chair, WALCC & Vice-President, System Drives, ABB
Jani Pitkäniemi, Mayor, City of Porvoo
- 09:30 **WALCC co-creating springboards for tiger leaps**
Johan Wallin, Honorary Chair, WALCC
Mikko Kosonen, Chair, Aalto University
Maija Lönnqvist, Director, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
- 10:00 **Porvoo as a transformational hub**, Panel discussion moderated by **Fredrik Pressler**, CEO, Posintra
Fredrick von Schoultz, Deputy Mayor, City of Porvoo & Board member, WALCC
Juha Moilanen, Head of Hydrogen and CO₂ reduction projects, Neste
Jaakko Tuomainen, Program Manager, Borealis Polymers
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:15 **Finland as a hydrogen forerunner**, Panel discussion moderated by **Johan Wallin**, Managing Partner, Synocus
Simo Säynevirta, Head of ABB Green Electrification Ecosystem, ABB
Satu Sipola, Vice President, Hydrogen and Project Execution, Fortum & Board member, WALCC
Heli Virkki, Head of Hydrogen Valley Development, Gasgrid Finland
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 **The European state of decarbonization innovation**
Venla Virkamäki, Senior Adviser, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
- 13:30 **Co-implementing sustainable transformations**, Introductions of parallel streams featuring panel discussions and small group discussions
- Shaping cities for sustainability and livability**
Toni Tuomola, Regional Manager, Skanska
Charlotte Nyholm, Chief Specialist, Granlund
Ilkka Kasari, Energy Specialist, JIS-Automation
Francesco Cellerino, Researcher, Politecnico di Milano
- Citizen engagement through digitalization**
Kaisa Väänänen, Professor, Tampere University
Fredrik Jansson, Head of Business Development, Energy & Utilities, Tietoevry
Airi Mölsä, Senior Specialist, KONE
Anniina Autero, Project Manager, City of Tampere
- 14:30 Coffee Break
- 15:00 **Aiming for Tiger Leaps – moving forward together**, Panel discussion moderated by **Mikko Kosonen**, Chair, Aalto University
Fredrik Pressler, **Johan Wallin**, **Toni Tuomola** & **Kaisa Väänänen**
- 16:00 **WALCC Strategy – what we have learned thus far and how to continue**, Discussion facilitated by Board Chair **Peter Lindgren** and Board members **Satu Sipola** and **Johan Wallin**
- 16:30 **Concluding discussions and networking**

Co-creating the 2024 WALCC Forum in Porvoo

The Forum will engage invited participants in experiencing new solutions accelerating the green transition. There is only a limited number of seats available so please [register now at this link](#).

