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Climate Active Neighbourhoods

Newsletter N°6

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7th CAN Meeting in Plymouth

On 25 and 26 September 2018, the 7th CAN meeting was successfully held in Plymouth, UK. 31 participants including project partners and their regional partners took part in the meeting. The thematic focus areas centered around cold realities of fuel poverty within the neighbourhoods and its effects on physical and mental health, finding links between energy transition and social aspects and their benefits, as well as the main messages of the project itself.



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Arnhem introduced their first attempts to connect the goals of energy transition with targeting social and financial problems of residents within the neighbourhoods. The development of pilot measures is currently ongoing and aspects like the overall target and target groups are being identified, while the financing, planning and monitoring of activities are also focused on. The project partners from Brest and the Energy Agency Rhineland-Palatinate pointed out the importance of cooperation with social services and of monitoring approaches as support of the project.

During the implementation of activities within CAN, certain main messages can be identified, which represent the project as a whole and can provide a valuable perspective on the implementation of climate action in neighbourhoods for municipalities, who'd also like to implement similar measures. During the working group meeting, one session was dedicated to finding and discussing the main

messages of the project. Additionally the project partners collected examples for each main message.

In three parallel open sessions, the group updated each other on ongoing activities and their progress since the last meeting. The topic of neighbourhood monitoring was presented together with the set of criteria relevant to it. Project partners showed their interest and offered support for the verification of indicators. The current status of retrofits, implemented by project partner Optivo was discussed among another group. The third group was introduced to EPAMSA's best practices on both the usage of communication material for behavior change and the Energy Performance Contracts as a tool to foster the decrease of carbon emissions. The experiences of the other project partners were being shared in order to find solutions to common obstacles.

The sessions were complemented by a site visit to the Ernesettle solar array in Plymouth, a solar farm with 16.000 solar panels, which meets the annual energy needs of 1.000 homes. The solar array has been established by a community share offer raising one million Pounds, which is a great inspiration for community-based approaches on solar energy.



© Climate Alliance

Learning from one another: Visit of Energise Sussex Coast in Essen

From October 9 to 12, eight members of Energise Sussex Coast visited the City of Essen to learn about the local activities on climate action and sustainability. The partner visit is part of the Communities of Practice, which has been established as a tool for mutual learning among the partners of the project.

The multi-faceted program of the visit in Essen offered a variety of opportunities for knowledge transfer, peer-to-peer exchange on ideas and approaches. The group visited several local initiatives and has been provided a look into the challenges and practices related to energy transition and social initiatives within neighbourhoods.



© City of Essen

The visit started off in the CAN neighbourhoods “City Nord” and comprised a meeting with social initiatives at the central meeting point of the “European Green Capital – Essen 2017”. The partners learned about the neighbourhood, funded citizen projects related to urban development, voluntary support as well as a funding project for PV installations on commercial and retail roofs. Next, the group stopped by a lake, an integrated urban development project in a deprived neighbourhood. Additionally, two employment initiatives were presented, one focusing on providing energy advice in peoples’ homes and the other engaging charitable bike-rickshaw-rides for seniors carried out by long-term unemployed. The bike highway along restored riverbeds offered the perfect opportunity for a bike excursion to the Transition Town Movement Essen and an urban

gardening project. The day was rounded off by a meeting with a citizen energy cooperative, where the participants learned about energy saving contracting and the distribution of small electric vehicles.

On the second day the participants met with the state citizen advice center. During the meeting both climate justice related to heating and energy poverty as well as the challenges of consumer-oriented energy consulting have been discussed. Subsequently, the group met with two representatives of the Economy for Common Good-Movement and a citizen energy cooperative. The approaches of placing social responsibility at the center of economic action as well as the installation of PV on school and residential roofs were presented. A visit to a grass paper printing company rounded off the day.

On the last day the group met with a representative of the university department for City District Development, Spatio-Social Work and Advice. Valuable insights on how to find a connection to people, who are in vulnerable situations and or live in migrant communities were shared with the group. The importance of a person of trust as a key to find an access to the target group were emphasized.

After the successful visit Stephan Plage of the Green Capital Agency Essen, points out that “all stakeholders agree that international exchange has a high value and must be continued in the future”. The exchange of knowledge is a “useful tool for the development and correction of both strategies and projects”.

For more information contact [Stephan Plage](#) or [Kai Lipsius](#)
Green Capital Agency, City of Essen



Partners in the Spotlight: Plymouth City Council

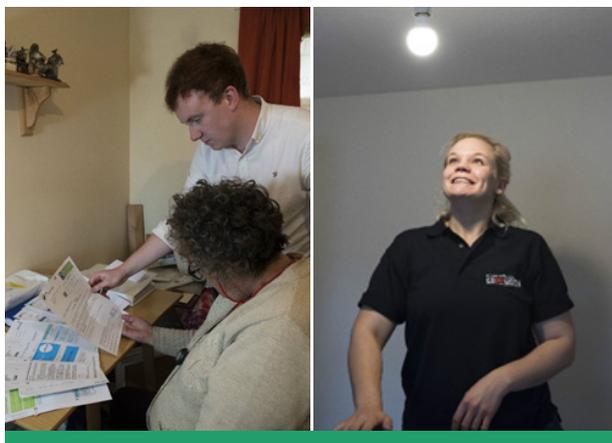
Plymouth City Council is a local authority in the South West of England, our city is flanked by the sea to the South and the National Park of Dartmoor to the North, meaning we are relatively isolated and the biggest city in the region. Within our boundaries we currently have 258,000 inhabitants.

Why are you participating at CAN?

Several of Plymouth neighbourhoods are in the top 25% of deprived neighbourhoods in the UK. These neighbourhoods share similar social characteristics, with lower than average income and life expectancy, and poorer quality private housing. The CAN project in Plymouth targets three of these neighbourhoods in order to empower communities to make small changes, which will have a beneficial effect to the individual. These individual benefits can be broadly categorised as energy saving, income maximisation, and improved comfort/health. On a cumulative level these small changes lead to the communities making a significant positive impact on CO2 reduction. It also raises their understanding of how they can contribute positively to climate change as well as increasing the community's ability to confidently tackle home energy issues.

How will you tackle the problems?

Our approach takes a bottom up approach



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"I have a responsibility to reduce the carbon emissions of the city – particularly from the domestic sector, as well as address the issue of fuel poverty for the city. I have worked in this field for the last 10 years and managed many schemes in order to improve the efficiency of Plymouth's houses and increase the resilience of our most vulnerable residents."

© Plymouth City Council

and looks at using 'multipliers' to inspire residents to take action. The multipliers can be individuals, community groups, schools, or any organisation that can reach residents and motivate them to take action. The key multiplier in our CAN project is an organisation called Plymouth Energy Community (PEC). PEC is a co-operative organisation and provides a local, grass roots service to residents who need advice on a range of energy issues. It is this trust in local organisations which allows the CAN project in Plymouth to really take hold.

We are very interested in how to first engage a resident on climate issues. As such we produced an engagement guide, which looks at what key themes will be of interest to residents to motivate them to take action. The study conducted focus groups and interviews with a range of professional and local residents to investigate how different topics were perceived. This led onto to the testing of 2 approaches: direct targeting (where households were sent letters etc.) and targeting using community infrastructure (promoting the CAN activities in library's, shops, schools etc).

What are your key activities?

The key activity for us within the CAN project is the delivery of home visits to 1,000 private households in 3 deprived neighbourhoods. So far we have had great success, with over 600 visits completed to date. The visits provide the householder with an energy advice report for their home, LED bulbs, draft proofing, an energy monitor, thermostat and radiator valves. The key element to this is the advice given by PEC as part of the visit. This advice can be very useful for the householder, providing examples of behaviour change, energy tariff switching, and state benefits that may be available. In some cases this has led to an increase in annual household income of over €5,000.

It is important for Plymouth that we use the CAN project to tackle the prevalence of fuel poverty in the city as well as reducing CO2. These two subjects are interlinked, with a reduction in one often leading to a reduction in another.

How can other organisations/municipalities benefit from your experiences?

One of the key points of learning so far from CAN centres around how best to communicate to communities. When we look at our home visit service we can see that a direct letter to a home from PEC accounts for 30% of appointments. Of more interest is that a further 35% of appointments were made through word of mouth – that is communities talking to each other. This really highlights the benefit and effectiveness of adopting a multiplier approach.

The other key point to note from the project is the interdependency between fuel poverty, CO2, health, and the quality of the home environment. The use of health outcomes to justify a CO2 reduction project is a relatively new concept across the NWE region and deserves further exploration in order to cement the link between the two.

For more information on Plymouth City Council, click [here](#).



Save the Date: CAN Final Conference

Two day joint conference on neighbourhood approaches towards local climate action

For successful implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, it is fundamental to involve neighbourhoods and their residents. Changing perspectives from top-down to bottom-up and meeting residents eye-to-eye is key to create sustainable, long term results.

Day 1 | How to Energize Neighbourhood Initiatives*

Day 2 | Local Climate Activities in North-West Europe* (CAN Final Conference)

When? 10 - 11 April 2019

Where? Arnhem, NL

For more information, click [here](#).

SAVE
THE
DATE

JOIN THE CONFERENCE
**EMPOWERING NEIGHBOURHOODS
FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

10 - 11 APRIL 2019
ARNHEM, NL - MUSIS SACRUM

A Look Outside the Box

EDI-Net at a glance

The EDI-Net (Energy Data Innovation Network) initiative, of which Climate Alliance is part of the consortium, fosters to raise awareness about energy and waste consumption among individuals and municipalities.

The network analyses and communicates sub-hourly electricity, gas and water meter data to identify waste and savings opportunities, reduce consumption and save money. The initiative is aimed at public authorities' decision makers, energy managers and building users. Especially schools, who have been implementing this approach, have already benefitted from it by saving energy and water.

To learn more visit the [EDI-Net website](#) or the [newsletters](#) or contact info@edi-net.eu.

Project Facts

The Partners

- Climate Alliance (Lead Partner)
- Optivo with Hastings Borough Council and Energise Sussex Coast
- City of Arnhem
- Brest métropole with Brest Ener'gence
- Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz
- City of Essen
- Liège Energie with City of Liège
- Plymouth City Council
- EPAM Seine-Aval with Mantes-la-Jolie
- City of Worms

[Read more](#)

Contact

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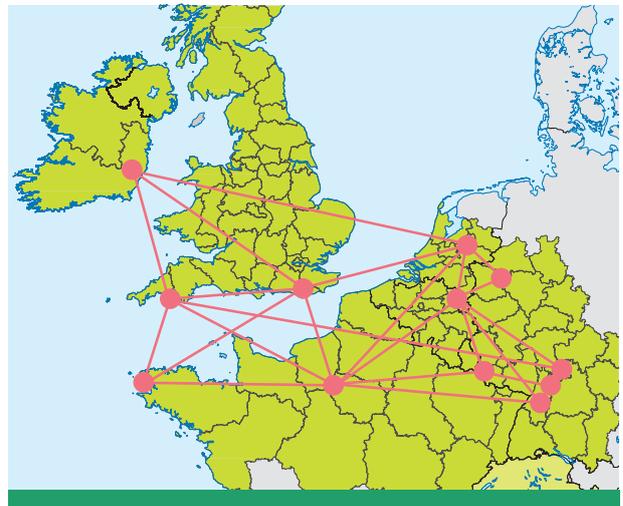
Upcoming Events

CAN Working Group Meetings

- 12 April 2019 in Arnhem (Netherlands)

Further CAN-Events

- 10-11 April 2019 in Arnhem (Netherlands)
[Empowering Neighbourhoods for Climate Action](#), CAN Final Conference
- 22-23 May 2019 in Heidelberg (Germany)
[International Conference on Climate Action](#)



The transnational partner network of CAN

Duration

February 2016 to October 2019

€ 7.8 million total project budget
€ 4.7 million funded via ERDF