

WG Waste and Circular Economy meeting as part of EEF 2026

Thursday 5 November 09.00-18.00

Friday 6 November 09.00-12.30

Context

[Add context]

Key points for the one and a half day meeting will be:

- [add]

Programme overview

Thursday 5 November 09.00-18.00 Venue: Palácio Vila Flor, Room: Foyer	
8.30-9.00	Welcome coffee and registration Participants will be able to collect their badges in the lobby area.
9:00-9:30	Welcome from WG Chairs
9:30-10.00	Presentation from Guimaraes and Q&A– Paulo Machado , energy expert
10:00 -10:30	Coffee break
10:30-11:15	Tour de table about latest developments and main priorities in cities
11:15-12:00	Break out groups on climate plans
12:00-12:30	Policy updates, Eugenia Mansutti
12:30-14:00	Lunch

14:00-14.30	Integrated planning on energy systems – led by the Hague Dense urban areas are challenging places to make progress in the energy transition: many neighbourhoods consist of (multi-storey) buildings erected generations ago, and public spaces face challenges (both above and under the ground) to integrate the infrastructure required for the energy transition & clean energy systems. Grid congestion is becoming an increasingly large bottleneck in the electrification process. By planning the energy system in an integrated manner, combining electricity with heating and cooling, local energy storage and existing infrastructure renovation plans, progress towards fossil fuel phase-out can be maintained. In this session, we will: • Discuss how integrated planning can help optimize the energy system and relieve bottlenecks – what is an effective way to do integrated planning? • Provide a Dutch example (of the city of The Hague) on how we shape our integrated planning plans; • Identify other interesting city approaches on integrated energy planning; • Formulate key take-aways and assess how these relate to European policy initiatives, such as the Electrification Action Plan. Agenda: Presentation of the European Electrification Action Plan from the European Commission (TBC) City examples Marianna Fuchs, The Hague Jeroen Mercy, Ghent City example TBC Interactive exercise
15:30-16:00	break
16:00-17:30	Focus on local cooling plans As heatwaves intensify and cooling demand rises across Europe, cities need to plan for cooling as an integral part of their energy systems, not only as a matter of urban heat adaptation. Under Article 25 of the recast Energy Efficiency Directive, municipalities with more than 45,000 inhabitants must prepare local heating and cooling plans that map cooling demand, assess energy-efficiency and renewable-cooling potential, apply the energy-efficiency-first principle, and align with existing climate, energy and environmental planning. Presentations: • Herbert Hemis, Vienna • Moritz Monninger, Munich (TBC). Stadtwerke München, the municipal utility, has operated a district-cooling network since 2014, using the Isar River and underground streams through direct heat exchange and heat pumps; it is integrated with the city's heating infrastructure. • Ana da Costa, Braga (TBC). Braga is addressing rising cooling demand through an integrated approach combining building renovation, renewable energy, energy-poverty action and nature-based solutions. Working solar mapping and a bio-roof programme (green roofs), it is working to reduce urban heat while expanding decentralised renewable energy and improving building

	performance. More information: https://eu-mayors.ec.europa.eu/en/Cooling-Braga-with-nature-based-solutions Q&A Discussion in small groups around the following questions: • Active versus passive cooling? What are the real potentials of passive cooling? • How should be a cooling plan shaped? • How can be heating and cooling planning combined? • Which technologies and energy sources should be preferred? What challenges we have to face? • Which fields/sectors should be integrated while developing a cooling plan and related activities? • Do we need a prioritisation according to the kind of uses, location of buildings or other characteristics? Sharing the main takeaways with the wider group
19:00-22:00	WG informal dinners (at participants' own cost) – venue to come

Friday 6 November 09.00-12.30 Venue: Palácio Vila Flor, Room: Foyer		
08:30-09:10	Welcome coffee and registration Participants will be able to collect their badges in the lobby area.	EEF steering committee meeting at 08:30 – only for WG and Forum Chairs
9:10-12:00 <i>(coffee break at 10.30-10.45)</i>	Joint WG meeting WG CCEE & WG WASTE on Circular Construction Background: • The construction sector is responsible for over a third of the EU's total waste generation, with annual waste volumes reaching about 450-500 million tonnes. Moreover, material extraction, manufacturing of construction products, and construction and renovation of buildings create up to around 5-12% of total national GHG emissions across European countries (Circular Economy Action Plan, 2020). Therefore, the construction sector is one of the most resource-intensive sectors with a high potential for impactful transitioning to more circular practices. • The importance of the construction sector for circularity is also reflected in the existing and upcoming EU policies. For example, the Circular Economy Act (upcoming in autumn 2026) is expected to include phased implementation of binding requirements across sectors from 2028 onwards, with the construction sector among the most impacted sectors. Additionally, Public Procurement Targets (revision of the Directive expected in 2026) aim to create a demand-side market for circular construction, while circularity and resource efficiency are also embedded in the EU Housing Policy and European Strategy for Housing Construction (2025), more specifically.	
Time tbd	Wrap up and take aways from EEF 2026 - Welcome and introduction by the WGs co-chairs - EU Policy Landscape on circular construction - Short city presentations (7min/each), showcasing concrete circular construction initiatives, barriers to scaling up and questions for the other participating cities to gather feedback or open questions. • Nantes-Metropole (TBC)	

	• Oslo • Dusseldorf • Braga
Time tbd	Interactive discussion • 5 roundtable discussions Facilitated discussion by Eurocities/WG chairs, mapping the main barriers cities face in scaling circular construction (such as regulatory, financial, technical, market-related) and identifying enabling factors in these areas. - Takeaways - Next steps and wrap up

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