

EU-Canada Exchange

Webinar 3: Supporting local action

18 May 2021

How government can support local action and informed investment decisions: Tools and solutions to boost renovation

Background

In March 2020, the EU and Canada affirmed their determination to put into action energy efficient solutions in buildings at all levels of governance to address the climate challenge at a joint workshop organized by the European Commission and Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), within the framework of the Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA). Hosted by BPIE, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, the Canada-EU Exchange will continue in 2021 as a series of five webinars, running monthly from March until July. The webinars will cover selected building policies and programmes, their implementation, best practices, and innovative policies across Canada and EU Member States.

Webinars 1 and 2, hosted in March and April, focused on recovery plans and what provinces and Member States are doing on the regional and national level. The third webinar, hosted on May 18th, 2021, will focus on best practices for cities and municipalities, what tools are available and what is needed going forward.

Audience: Stakeholders participating in these webinars include colleagues in provinces/territories, leading Canadian cities and their associations, building sector industry associations, relevant NGOs and federal agencies. This exchange also aims to connect Canadian and European stakeholders to share best practices as it relates to the design and implementation of policy solutions to shared energy efficiency goals.

On the local level, cities and municipalities have a large role to play in reaching climate targets in the short and long term. There are several key local initiatives among cities that can provide best practice examples for creating frameworks to track climate goals, establishing local incentive programmes, and training experts to execute energy efficiency measures.

Webinar 3 will include a series of small group discussions with leading cities to serve as an interactive forum for city experts to discuss their key priorities, their views on the tools that are available, and what is needed to reach their climate goals.

The European Experience

Local action is essential in creating and executing climate goals in the European Union. Across the EU there are several municipality and city led initiatives and tools for building energy efficiency.

Launched in 2008, the [EU Covenant of Mayors \(CoM\)](#) is a bottom-up approach, uniting thousands of local governments that have voluntarily committed to furthering EU climate and energy objectives. The initiative now includes 9,000+ local and regional authorities, across 57 countries, moving beyond Europe. To translate political commitment into action, CoM signatories commit to submitting a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) within two years of joining, to feed into the municipalities long-term commitments. SECAPS outline the signatory's climate goals and how they plan to achieve them. SECAPS include methods to track mitigation actions as well as adaptation strategies.

The [European Local Energy Assistance \(ELENA\)](#) programme, in operation since 2009, is one major tool to assist municipalities implementing energy efficiency solutions. ELENA is run by the EIB and the EC under Horizon 2020. ELENA offers technical assistance for energy efficiency, residential renovation, and urban transport projects over €30 million.

ELENA plays a large role in the energy transition in Member States. The programme is centrally administered (managed) by the EIB, who offers advisory services to public and private entities, including municipalities, regions, and private estates interested in financing renovation.

The webinar will include experiences from ELENA and the CoM, as well as other city and municipal led initiatives from EU Member States.

The Canadian Experience

Canadian municipalities across the country are important players in the decarbonisation of the building sector and the acceleration of energy efficient renovations to achieve our climate goals.

The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\)](#) is a Pan-Canadian network of more than 2,000 municipalities of all sizes, from Canada's cities and rural communities, to northern communities and provincial and territorial municipal associations. Established in 1901, FCM represents more than 90 percent of all Canadians from coast to coast to coast and advocate for municipalities to ensure that their citizens' needs are reflected in federal policies and programs.

The FCM provides various forms of support mechanisms and frameworks to cities, including the [Green Municipal Fund \(GMF\)](#). Created in 2000 with the support of the Government of Canada, the GMF supports municipalities in implementing innovative and sustainable practices in various fields by providing a unique mix of funding, resources and training. Supported projects include green and active transportation, contaminated site restoration, access to cleaner drinking water, and energy-efficient housing and buildings.

Canada's cities account for about half of the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the country and are at the leading edge of developing low carbon solutions. The [Low Carbon Cities Canada \(LC3\) network](#) is a partnership between seven of Canada's largest cities and the FCM to design and scale-up low carbon solutions at the local level. Its mission is to support municipalities as they reach their carbon emissions reduction potential while improving public health, creating jobs and building resilient communities.

