



**Energy**  
**-SHIFTS**



ENERGY  
SOCIAL SCIENCES &  
HUMANITIES  
INNOVATION  
FORUM  
TARGETING THE  
SET-PLAN

## Concluding the Fellowship: Just Transitions Workshop

### List of participants

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#### Policy fellows and colleagues, including short case introduction

**Joyca Leplae**, Head of campaigns and transition manager, City of Ghent, Belgium

**Roeland Keersmaekers**, project manager MM+M fossil fuel - free neighborhoods, City of Ghent

**Simon Berlo**, behavioral unit on energy efficiency, City of Ghent

*“How can we develop and facilitate effective and inclusive processes for neighborhoods in Ghent to become fossil-fuel free and energy efficient?”*

In 2020, Joyca’s team will start a transition-plan for two neighborhoods to become fossil-fuel-free. One of the areas will likely be connected to the harbour (heat exchange), the other is a more residential area where a local heating grid could be established. She hopes that these two cases can accelerate the transition process of the whole city. While there is specific support and financial measures for low-income households, energy poverty remains difficult to tackle. It is a challenge to identify and apply effective participatory methods to engage people in implementing new technologies and infrastructure.

**Marieke van der Enden**, Civil servant, Municipality Westland, The Netherlands

*“How can we increase public acceptance of heating alternatives?”*

Together with two colleagues Marieke works on the energy transition in the built environment. They currently work to develop a vision and agenda on how to govern the heat transition, a requirement set by the national government. As a part of this they have to choose which two neighborhoods will be the first to disengage from the natural gas grid, and what sustainable alternatives are suitable replacements. This raises many questions about the available alternatives, but also about a process that is effective and just.

**Gert De Block**, Secretary general, European Federation of Local Energy Companies (CEDEC), Belgium

*“How to protect vulnerable energy consumers with regards to market-based pricing (instead of regulated pricing) and digitalisation in the energy sector?”*

CEDEC represents the interests of more than 1500 local and regional energy companies in EU: the services they provide to consumers are reliable, sustainable, and close to the customer. Across the EU, local energy companies – with local public shareholders - are promoting the



energy transition in a cost-effective, environmentally friendly way, while being an important engine for local value creation. The initial interest was to discuss the implementation of the Clean Energy Package and its implication for vulnerable groups, as well as the negative implications of the digitalisation of energy systems.

**Bartosz Syk**, Sustainability Business Partner for Home Solar, IKEA Retail Poland

**Paweł Maśny**, Sustainability Project Manager for Home Solar, IKEA Retail Poland

(connected policy fellow: **Katarzyna Dulko-Gaszyna**, Sustainability manager, IKEA Retail)

*“How to make solar energy accessible and affordable for citizens?”*

For its energy production, Poland relies heavily on coal, while its electricity system is perceived as not being very resilient, including (fear for) power blackouts especially in rural areas. Furthermore, air pollution and extreme weather events got people thinking about climate change and, hence, look for alternative energy sources. In such a context, solar energy could be the cheapest and most sustainable solution securing parts of the energy supply for the country. However, the transition to solar currently meets political, legal and social barriers.

IKEA Poland, where the team focuses on sales and development of energy services including energy efficient appliances and solar solutions for homes, is based on a triple-p bottom line business ethic.

**Andreas Schneller**, Project manager, Adelphi, Germany

*“How to create policy instruments for alleviating energy poverty in different EU member states? (with a particular focus on Germany and Romania)”*

Andreas Schneller is a project manager at Adelphi, an independent think tank and public policy consultancy on climate, environment, and development. Andreas manages projects on behalf of federal ministries and the European Commission. His work is focused on the evaluation of policy measures and the development of new strategies for energy efficiency, the analysis of political and financial aspects of new heating supply technologies, as well as research on social science aspects of the energy transition. Andreas works on energy poverty alleviation in Germany as well as in Romania (financed by the European Climate Initiative).

**Molly Walsch**, Renewables Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe, Belgium

*“How can we ensure a well understood fully renewable energy system becomes popular? What evidence is there that community participation makes the energy transition more popular?”*

Molly campaigns for a people and community owned renewable energy system. Friends of the Earth recently received a lot of attention with their success in pushing the issue of ownership and community engagement in the negotiations regarding the EU clean energy package, which gives citizens the right to sell and produce energy. While the technology necessary to move to a 100% renewable energy system already exists, Molly thinks that most policy makers and mainstream society are not well-aware of it, or for some reasons retain doubts. She sees a decrease in the popularity of renewables which can be seen in pushback from policy makers and poor policy making, as well as increase in local anti-renewable sentiment.



## Policy associates

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