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Strengthening Europe with solar powered cities

In-person event

Thursday, 6 July 2023, 9:00-13:30 (CEST)

Scotland House | Rond-Point Schuman 6 | 1040 Brussels

Investment in renewable energy ensures a “win-win” solution – advancing Europe’s energy security while at the same time working towards decarbonisation. With the recent agreement on the revision of Europe’s Renewable Energy Directive (RED III), an important step is taken to further boost renewables, enabling a more than doubling of current annual renewables deployment.

With a view to the power system, solar PV and wind power will become the main pillars of the EU’s power system. By 2030, almost 600 GW of PV will need to be installed in the EU, compared to 210 GW at the end of 2022. Urban environments play an increasingly important role in this context. First, cities already have a high electricity demand, and it will continue to grow, inter alia because of the electrification of heating and cooling in buildings as well as that of transport sectors. Second, urban roofs represent a huge untapped potential for solar energy. As such, energy security issues are as crucial on the city level as they are nationally. Strengthening cities’ security of supply will certainly ease this issue on the national and overall EU levels while also contributing to the acceleration of the energy transition.

The EU’s Solar Energy Strategy aims for massive PV deployment via the European Solar Rooftops Initiative. As an example, the City of Budapest has a potential for 5 GW of rooftop PV. A huge number of European cities have similar conditions and potentials, which emphasizes the importance of the European Solar Rooftops Initiative. Cities must exchange and engage on these matters, taking full advantage of the important framework offered by the EU Mission for 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities.

How can the current obstacles and problems in the realization of PV projects in cities be removed or solved? By showcasing concrete examples of and options for boosting solar PV deployment in cities, this conference aims to address these questions.

REGISTRATION

Participation in the event is free of charge. You can register on our website <https://www.agora-energiewende.de/en/events/>.

CONTACT

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This conference is part of the project "Fostering low-carbon investments in Budapest by exploring and promoting the possibilities of large-scale urban rooftop solar instalments" which is part of the European Climate Initiative (EUKI). EUKI is a project financing instrument by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

AGENDA

09:00	Registration & coffee
09:30	Welcome & opening Ada Ámon & Benedek Jávör , City of Budapest Kora Rösler , European Climate Initiative (EUKI), GIZ
BLOCK 1 Moderation: Benedek Jávör , Head of Budapest Representation in Brussels	
09:45	Keynote 1: Solar energy in the light of the European Green Deal and the new Renewable Energy directive Ville Niinistö , MEP, European Parliament
	Keynote 2: Towards clean, secure and affordable carbon-free European power supply and the role of cities Eero Ailio , Adviser, European Commission
	Keynote 3: Solar power as power horse for a carbon-free power supply in cities Walburga Hemetsberger , CEO, SolarPower Europe
	A solar map for the city of Budapest Ada Ámon , Head of Department Climate and Environment, City of Budapest
	Q & A with the audience
10:55	Coffee break
BLOCK 2	
11:15	Panel 1: Regulatory and policy aspects of boosting solar PV in cities Eero Ailio , Adviser, European Commission Walburga Hemetsberger , CEO, SolarPower Europe Csaba Ruzsa , Deputy Mayor, Pécs including Q&A with audience Moderation: Adrien Hiel , Spokesperson, Energy Cities
12:00	Panel 2: Technical aspects of boosting solar PV in cities: Network stability and system integration Raf Bellers , Director, Fluvius, Board Member of DSO Entity Evert Eriksson , Energy Policy Advisor, Flemish Energy and Climate Agency Tamás Kenessey , Co-Founder, Met3r Solutions including Q&A with audience Moderation: Christian Redl , Senior Associate, Agora Energiewende
12:45	Wrap up: Ada Ámon & Benedek Jávör , City of Budapest
12:50-13:30	Lunch