


## Work Package 6

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Report on national workshops & submission of country-specific recommendations to consultation processes

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# Table of content

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NECP NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN PORTUGAL</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NECP NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN LATVIA</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NECP NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>NECP NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN CROATIA</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>NECP NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN ITALY</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>15</b>

# Introduction

Although **cities are fundamental to meeting national and EU climate targets** – as they are responsible for a significant portion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption in the EU and are in the first stage of the implementation of policies - as we highlighted in our previous reports<sup>1</sup>, too often they are not seriously involved in the climate policymaking process.

Within the EUCityCalc project, WP6 - *Shaping the multi-level governance framework for climate neutrality* worked to **strengthen pilot cities' involvement in multi-level dialogues** to ensure their participation in the revision process of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), as stated in art. 10 and 11 of the Governance Regulation<sup>2</sup>.

In the first half of 2024, EUCityCalc<sup>3</sup>'s partners - the Italian municipality of Mantova, Energy and Environment Agency of Arrábida (ENA) on behalf of the Portuguese towns of Palmela, Sesimbra, and Setubal, Regional Energy Agency North (REAN) for the Croatian cities of Koprivnica, Varazdin, Virovitica, Riga Energy Agency (REA) on behalf of the Latvian capital, and Association of Local Energy Managers (SEMMO) for the Czech city of Žďár nad Sázavou - **joined national roundtables to outline and discuss with representatives of the government and relevant stakeholders their country-specific recommendations** for the update of the domestic NECPs in 2023/2024.

The data gathered and the scenarios simulated using the European City Calculator<sup>4</sup> supported the project's partners in drafting their recommendations. This process started later than expected because the national co-creation process conducted by the pilot cities had some delays. Indeed, they wanted to bring scenarios and evidence of their specific reality to the multi-level workshops.

Only one partner, **Dijon Métropole**, couldn't join a national roundtable. Planned for September 2024, the workshop will take place after the project's end due to the undefined composition of the new French government following the snap elections of 30 June and 7 July.

This document aims to report the recommendations submitted by each partner.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://europeancitycalculator.eu/publications/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1999/oj>

<sup>3</sup> <https://europeancitycalculator.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://eucitycalc.climact.com/>

# NECP national roundtable in Portugal

In a collective effort to address climate change and advance towards carbon neutrality, Portugal is taking significant strides through its National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). Portugal commits itself to – among other things – **reduce its greenhouse gas emissions between 45% to 55% in comparison to 2005 levels**, to make a 47% incorporation of renewable energies, and to invest 35% in greater energy efficiency.

For the EUCityCalc project, the Energy and Environment Agency of Arrábida (ENA) joined a series of roundtables organised within the EU-funded project LIFE-NECPlatform<sup>5</sup>. The objective was to align actions and initiatives at all governmental levels to achieve common climate and energy objectives outlined in the NECP.

The first dialogue took place on 30 January 2024 in Caldas da Rainha and it focused on mobility. The event was attended by representatives from the national government responsible for NECP review, relevant organizations involved in energy and climate strategies, and representatives from regional and local governments. The discussion aimed to **foster synergies and coordination among stakeholders to tackle mobility and building issues**.

- ◆ Recommendations<sup>6</sup> from ENA, regional and local administrations and other relevant stakeholders included:
- ◆ Regarding electromobility, the electrical infrastructure (supply and power networks) must be strengthened.
- ◆ Emissions' calculation metrics at national, regional and local level must be harmonised and standardised and scope 1, 2 and 3 must be clearly defined for cities.
- ◆ CO2 capture for industrial processes must be included.
- ◆ Municipal technicians must be trained to implement the Local Climate Action Plans required by law.
- ◆ Regarding renewable energy communities, regulatory changes must be introduced to allow municipalities to participate in the creation of these models (currently there are constraints in the Public Procurement Procedures that make impossible the factual participation).
- ◆ Connections between public transport networks must be promoted, especially in rural areas.
- ◆ Municipalities must be provided with administrative instruments for certain solutions (e.g. tender specifications).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://energy-cities.eu/project/life-necplatform/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Report\\_NECP\\_National\\_Roundtable\\_ENA\\_240130.pdf](https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Report_NECP_National_Roundtable_ENA_240130.pdf)

- ◆ Procedures for licensing and installing charging points must be simplified or technical support must be provided.
- ◆ The electrification of the logistic sector must be prioritised.
- ◆ The relevance of linking mobility measures with the rail network must be emphasised.
- ◆ Decentralised production must be encouraged: sale to the grid vs. self-consumption.

The outcomes of these roundtables will contribute to the ongoing revision of the NECP, ensuring that Portugal remains aligned with its climate and energy objectives while **fostering collaboration and innovation at all administrative levels**. ENA will also join the next thematic dialogues taking place until January 2025.

# NECP national roundtable in Latvia

The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 serves as a comprehensive policy framework outlining Latvia's climate mitigation and adaptation goals and strategies, including:

- ◆ Reduction of GHG emissions and enhancement of carbon dioxide removal efforts.
- ◆ Increase in the utilisation of renewable energy sources.
- ◆ Improvement of energy efficiency while ensuring energy security and enhancing the infrastructure of the energy market.

Advancement in innovation, research, and competitiveness.

Latvia's primary objective is to achieve **a 65% reduction in total GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels**, equivalent to a decrease of 9.2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq.

Collaboration on the revision of the NECP between the Riga Energy Agency (REA) and the Ministry of Climate and Energy commenced in November 2023. Following the ministry's review of the feedback, REA participated in a virtual roundtable on 10 January 2024 to discuss its proposed solutions<sup>7</sup>:

- ◆ Policies in the thermal energy sector (p. 11) focus on more efficient use of existing heat sources, including residual heat and energy efficiency, which are encouraged directions, but the action does not include replacing fossil fuels where possible. The Agency asks for the replacement of fossil fuels, including natural gas.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/EUCityCalc\\_Riga\\_NECP\\_roundtable.pdf](https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/EUCityCalc_Riga_NECP_roundtable.pdf)

- ◆ A substantive introduction of the obligation scheme defined in the Energy Efficiency Law, including for heating and natural gas network operators, to help achieve the energy efficiency objectives described in Section 2.1.2 (p. 20).
- ◆ Under the heading “dimension 2.1.2 II: Energy efficiency” (p. 20), it is concluded: “the available public funding is insufficient for the renovation boom to begin in Latvia”. The Agency calls for energy efficiency financing to be organised based on the “revolving fund” principles, by leveraging green bonds or alternative financing instruments described in the document, and by substantially rearranging the energy efficiency financing model.
- ◆ Under the heading “aspects of setting targets 2.2”, point 2 (p. 22) needs to include information on predictable climate change scenarios (see LVGMC studies). Although peak loads will be required, the duration of the heating season will decrease and existing capacity for peak loads will be redundant in the long term. This paragraph also related to an increasing demand for air conditioning capacity, which will affect the overall energy balance.
- ◆ Setting of RES targets by energy sources (p. 22), at least in the following cuts:
  - ◆ wood biomass;
  - ◆ other RES.
- ◆ Measure 13 (p. 47) under the heading “renewable energy” — “policies and measures to achieve the objectives” are welcomed along with a faster timeframe for the implementation of the measure.
- ◆ Under the heading “3.2.2 heating, buildings and industry”, “policies and measures to achieve objectives III”:
  - ◆ measure 5 (p. 50) has resulted in several inconsistencies. The Agency calls for a significant increase in performance indicators for “at least 20 buildings reconnected to an efficient CSAS”;
  - ◆ measure 6 (p. 50) requires that the action to be taken is supplemented by the renovation of internal heating networks and the modernisation of individual heating units. Existing heating systems (one-pipe heating systems) do not allow full room temperature control. Consequently, the installation of allocators without further action may not achieve the expected results. However, installing individual heat meters without rebuilding the internal system is impossible. For this reason, the funding for the measure should be substantially increased;
  - ◆ action 8 (p. 50), the Agency calls for an increase in the annual target for improving the proportion of RES for natural gas traders;
  - ◆ measure 11 (p. 50), the Agency invites producers of thermal energy in several sources in Riga under free market conditions to separately tariff the thermal energy produced in water-heated boilers and the thermal energy produced in the cogeneration process, including AS “Latvenergo” thermal power plants;
  - ◆ the measure “restrictions on installing new fossil fuel installations” is to be supported, but the Agency draws attention to the fact that the prohibition on installing new gas boilers in Riga City from 2025, mentioned in the description of



the measure, did not come into force because it was rejected by VAR. A new version has now been prepared, which plans to impose restrictions somewhat later than 2027, which is related to the short period of transition from the entry into force of the rules until the entry into force of the restrictions.

- ◆ Under the heading “3.3.1 Energy consumption”, “policies and measures to achieve objectives III”:
  - ◆ to supplement the list of actions with the necessity for energy supply undertakings to provide energy consumption data and information regarding connections to local governments to ensure climate planning and monitoring following Section 4, Paragraph one, Clause 22 of the local Government Law;
  - ◆ action 6 (p. 61), the Agency calls for action to be complemented by air conditioning;
  - ◆ measure 11 (p. 61), the proposal should be accompanied by the involvement of employers and professional organisations (e.g. the CCIPB, the CCIPB, etc.).
- ◆ Under the heading “3.3.2 public sector”, “policies and measures to achieve objectives III”:
  - ◆ an increase in the target of 1.9%, accompanied by support instruments (e.g. funds). Local authorities have great potential to reduce consumption to a larger extent. The application of supporting instruments can achieve the energy savings targets required by the NECP relatively cheaply;
  - ◆ list of actions to be supplemented by a measure to restore the internal heat networks of renovated or heritage buildings;
  - ◆ list of actions to be supplemented by measures for the installation of mechanical ventilation systems;
  - ◆ Need for the ICT solution to be compatible with the registers and different data formats used by the municipalities - Action 3 (p. 63).
- ◆ Section 3.3.3 “Energy Efficiency of Buildings” (p. 65) indicates that the cost-effective renovation of multi-apartment buildings in 2050 perspective is 26,600 multi-apartment buildings. The NECP target of renovating 2000 buildings represents 7.5% of the number of renovated buildings indicated in the document. This objective of the NECP will require more than 100 years to have cost-efficient buildings. The Agency calls for an increase in the target and appropriate actions and funding to achieve it.
- ◆ Under the heading “Energy Efficiency of Buildings”, “policies and measures to achieve objectives III”:
  - ◆ to complement the list of actions with the need to develop a rotational energy efficiency financing instrument;
  - ◆ to supplement the list of actions with the need to change the Cabinet regulations so that managers have the right to renovate multi-apartment buildings that do not comply with the minimum energy efficiency requirements. Managers shall inform residents about the renovation of the



- building, giving residents the right to decide against the renovation within 3 months;
- ◆ to supplement the list of actions with the necessity to ensure implementation of the principles for regeneration of blocks, including by facilitating the requirements of the Public Procurement Law;
- ◆ to supplement the list of actions regarding the renovation of buildings from prefabricated thermal insulation panels. The implementation of the measure requires an aid programme with a high aid intensity for pilot projects.
- ◆ Under the heading “3.5.7 energy poverty and access to energy”, “policies and measures to achieve objectives III”:
  - ◆ add more aid to the list of actions to fight energy poverty in support instruments for building renovation. For example, additional support if the building is renovated under the ALTUM support programme.

The Ministry of Climate and Energy appreciated the inputs from REA and pledged to review and incorporate them into the NECP.

## NECP national roundtable in Czech Republic

The Czech Republic aims to reduce total GHG emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, a reduction of 44 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Projections suggest the NECP's policies can achieve a 34% reduction in emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels.

While the NECP includes measures for local implementation, the initial plan lacked sufficient focus on this level. Measures targeting municipalities involve promoting distributed energy generation, decarbonising local government buildings, and enhancing the role of local energy and climate agencies. However, local authorities face significant challenges, such as:

- ◆ Lack of specialised human resources
- ◆ Insufficient technical knowledge and training
- ◆ Lack of communication among municipalities
- ◆ Limited financial resources
- ◆ Insufficient collaboration platforms
- ◆ Setting up energy communities to achieve climate neutrality.

On 15 February 2024, SEMMO participated in the Climate and Energy Dialogue hosted by the Union of Modern Energy, alongside representatives from the Ministry of the Environment,

universities, and energy organizations. The meeting's primary objective was to advocate for greater involvement of local authorities in updating the NECP. Participants agreed on two main objectives to be achieved:

- ◆ Municipalities with populations over 10,000 should establish at least one **energy community (EC)**.
- ◆ The installed renewable energy sources (RES) capacity within these ECs should reach **4,000 MW by 2030**.

For this purpose, SEMMO proposed the following recommendations divided into four main topics<sup>8</sup>:

### **Awareness and Advisory**

- ◆ Implementation of climate and energy coordinators within regional administrations to facilitate knowledge dissemination and coordination.
- ◆ Provision of advice and support for energy-efficient housing, including community initiatives.
- ◆ Establishment of competence centre within regions to foster expertise exchange and development.

### **Technical Conditions**

- ◆ Implementation of digitisation processes to streamline the identification of available connection capacities and facilitate contracts for the gradual integration of renewable energy sources.

### **Economic Conditions**

- ◆ Mitigation of double distributing charging for electricity consumption, particularly concerning battery usage, to encourage the uptake of energy storage solutions.

### **Legislation**

- ◆ Authorisation of multiple memberships within Energy Communities (ECs) to encourage broader participation and collaboration.
- ◆ Removal of legislative restrictions that hinder municipal rights within energy communities, fostering greater autonomy and decision-making capabilities at the local level.

By addressing these challenges and implementing the proposed recommendations, the Czech Republic **can ensure that local authorities play a more significant role in achieving national climate and energy goals**.

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<sup>8</sup> [https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Report\\_NCEP\\_-RT\\_-Czech-Republic.pdf](https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Report_NCEP_-RT_-Czech-Republic.pdf)

# NECP national roundtable in Croatia

The Croatian NECP (2021-2030) outlines targets for GHG reduction, renewable energy promotion, energy efficiency, and power system interconnection. Cities are crucial in achieving these goals through measures like:

- ◆ **Spatial planning for renewable energy:** Analysing and setting guidelines for planning at all levels.
- ◆ **Integrated and intelligent transport:** Creating and implementing sustainable urban mobility plans.
- ◆ **Urban sustainability:** Encouraging sustainable principles in urban projects.

On 23 April 2024, in Zagreb, the EU City Calc partner Regional Energy Agency North (REAN) participated in a roundtable *The Role and Responsibilities of Local and Regional Government Units – Climate and Energy* on behalf of the pilot cities Koprivnica, Varazdin, Virovitica. This event, organised under the EU-LIFE project NECPlatform, was hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, and the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA).

The event emphasised collaboration to address climate change and EU goals, gathering inputs to update the NECP such as<sup>9</sup>:

- ◆ Extend the public consultation period to allow for adequate feedback and comments.
- ◆ Implement more ambitious measures in the transportation sector.
- ◆ Reinstate taxes on SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for industries to make coal less competitive.
- ◆ Ban Euro 4 and older vehicles promptly.
- ◆ Establish low-emission zones.
- ◆ Prioritize a rapid transition to renewable energy sources, promoting their decentralization.
- ◆ Decrease the use of fossil fuels in the energy mix over a defined period, with the goal of phasing them out entirely.
- ◆ Implement ambitious socio-economic policies to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ Address Croatia's susceptibility to climate change impacts in the Mediterranean Basin by implementing proactive environmental mitigation measures.

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<sup>9</sup> [https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Report-on-national-roundtable-in-Croatia\\_REAN.pdf](https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Report-on-national-roundtable-in-Croatia_REAN.pdf)

This roundtable underscored how **effective communication between government levels can tailor measures to local needs**. Additionally, national support in capacity building is necessary for the implementation to meet Croatia's 2030 climate objectives.

# NECP national roundtable in Italy

The Italian NECP sets several key objectives:

- ◆ to accelerate the transition from traditional fuels to renewable sources by promoting the **gradual phasing out of coal** for electricity generation in favour of an electricity mix based on a growing share of renewables;
- ◆ to implement policies and measures to **reduce greenhouse gases** (phase-out of coal, higher CO<sub>2</sub> price, acceleration of renewables and energy efficiency in manufacturing process level);
- ◆ to use a mix of fiscal, economic, regulatory, and policy instruments to **ensure energy efficiency**;
- ◆ to become less dependent on imports by **increasing renewable sources and energy efficiency and to diversify sources of supply** through the use of natural gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG);
- ◆ to ensure a greater degree of **market integration and the development of processes, products, and knowledge** for the use of renewables, energy efficiency, and network technology.

Through the NECPlatform project, the municipality of Mantova was involved in several multi-level dialogues aimed at fostering a participatory process to update and refine the NECP. The Municipality of Mantova played a significant role, presenting its insights from the EUCityCalc project and offering recommendations for the plan.

During the National Conference, held on 21-22 March 2024, Mantova participated in sessions organised by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and the Covenant of Mayors. These sessions focused on local adaptation policies and tools to support Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), and broader discussions on Italy's energy and climate strategies. The event resulted in a series of recommendations divided into three main topics<sup>10</sup>:

## Centrality of the climate issue in national and local policies

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<sup>10</sup> [https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/EUCityCalc\\_Mantova\\_NECP\\_roundtable.pdf](https://europeancitycalculator.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/EUCityCalc_Mantova_NECP_roundtable.pdf)

- ◆ Address all the issues of the 'just' ecological transition, in terms of employment, reconciling the needs of today with those of the new generations.
- ◆ Define an Italian Climate Law that must be a binding instrument to realise what the Plans (NECP and National Climate Change Adaptation Plan) indicate.

### **Integration of mitigation and adaptation into the Plans**

To achieve an effective integration of mitigation and adaptation issues in local sectoral plans, it is considered appropriate to pursue:

- ◆ The integration of objectives and measures of the sectoral plans with those established in the SECAPs.
- ◆ The definition of a climate neutrality verification requirement for all those sectoral plans that involve a change in the local emissions balance.
- ◆ Give continuity to climate transitions and planning.

### **The role of the *Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR)*<sup>11</sup> concerning the objectives of climate neutrality and the economic dimension**

- ◆ Linking investment needs to public financing policies: the PNRR, REPowerEU, and European funds as a whole.
- ◆ Define the basic principles for public incentives, to ensure that spending is functional in achieving climate objectives.
- ◆ Stop financing fossil energy; simplify incentives for renewables.
- ◆ Facilitate self-consumption and forms of sharing of renewable energy.
- ◆ Promote innovative financing (e.g. green bonds).

The recommendations of the Municipality of Mantova, together with the ones of the other stakeholders involved in the NECPlatform project, has been brought to the attention of the Ministry by the Italian Coordinamento Italiano Agende 21.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

# Conclusion

Even though partners have just a few months to gather data and simulate scenarios with the EU City Calculator, they really appreciated the opportunity to be involved in their national climate policymaking process. For some of them, these national roundtables have been a rare occasion to meet representatives of the national government and make their voices heard.

The recommendations from Portugal, Latvia, Czech Republic, Croatia, and Italy highlight how **different countries need to tackle similar issues to fulfil the green transition**. They share several common themes such as :

- ◆ Energy efficiency and renewable energy: The need to **improve energy efficiency and promote the use of renewable energy sources**, including decentralisation and self-consumption.
- ◆ Regulatory and legislative changes: **Facilitating the implementation of climate policies, reducing bureaucratic constraints**, and enhancing local autonomy in energy management.
- ◆ Infrastructure and technological development: **Strengthening and modernising infrastructure**, particularly concerning energy and transportation.
- ◆ Financial support and innovative funding: **The necessity of financial mechanisms** to support energy and climate initiatives.
- ◆ Climate and emissions monitoring: **Standardising and improving emissions metrics and climate impact assessments**.
- ◆ Training and capacity building: The **need for training and capacity building** for municipal and regional authorities to implement climate action plans effectively.
- ◆ Public and community involvement: Encouraging broader participation and **collaboration within energy communities and promoting public consultation and stakeholder engagement**.

Only one partner, **Dijon Metropole**, could not organise or join a national roundtable. Indeed, their updated Climate-Air-Energy Action Plan (PCAET) - useful for identifying the climate-related issues to be tackled - will be ready by the end of summer 2024. Initially, the municipality planned to have a roundtable in September. However, due to the still undefined composition of the new French government resulting from the snap elections called after the result of the European Elections in June, all the multi-level dialogues are on hold. Consequently, the event will take place after the end of the project.

EUCityCalc is proud to have contributed to helping cities enter the control room by making them aware of their right to participate in the legislative process from the early stages and providing them with a **tool that can produce evidence to support their arguments**.

The whole EUCityCalc consortium hopes that the recommendations shared during the roundtables will be included in the updated versions of the NECPs. As of today, we still don't know if this hope has become a reality. This is just the first step on the empowering path local authorities can take to gain a seat at the climate policymaking table and make the difference.

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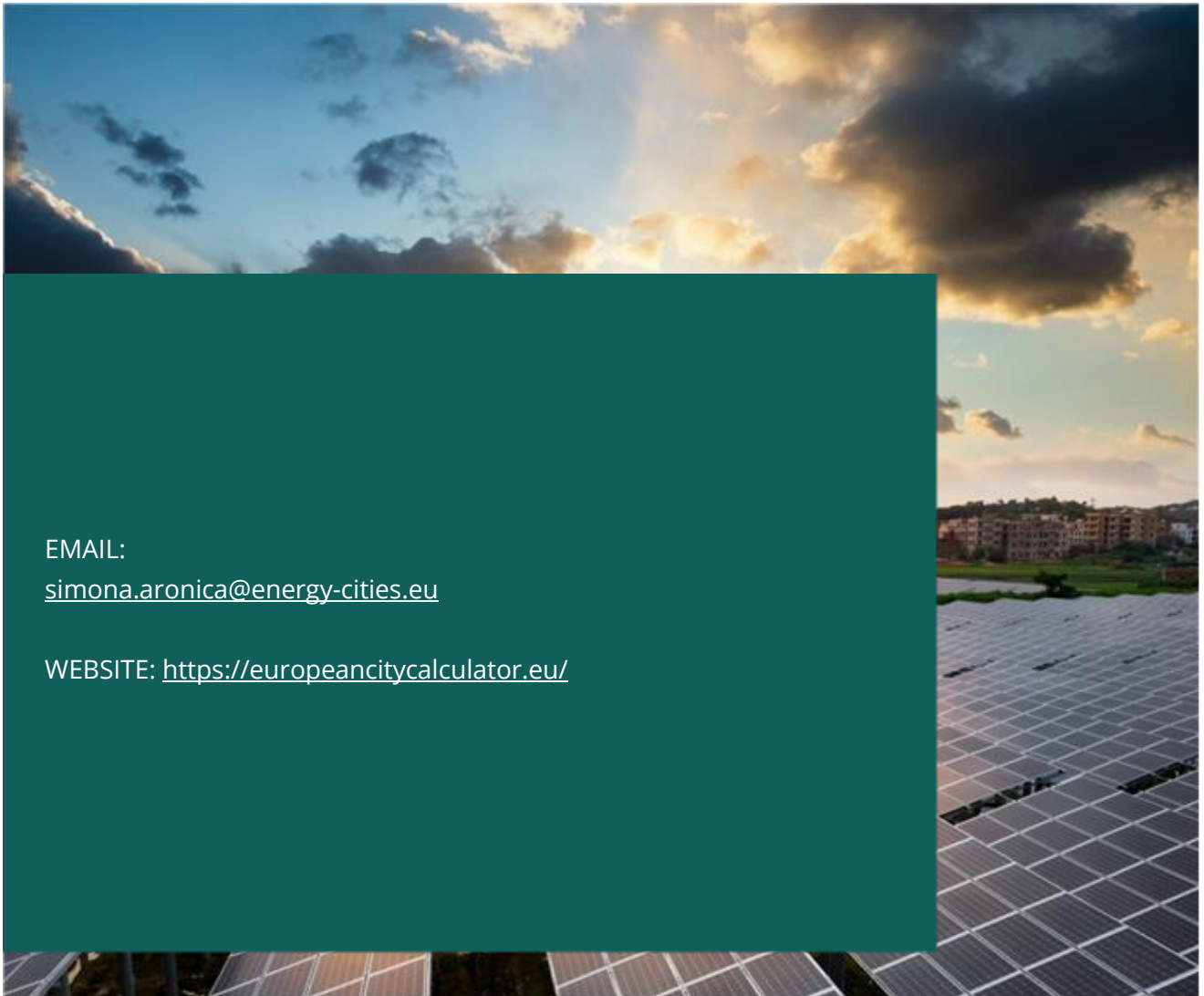
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