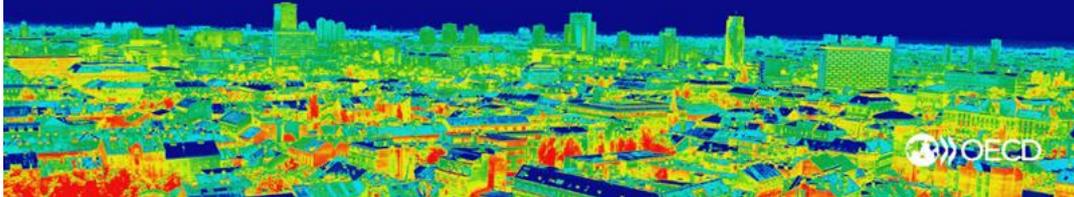


## Building Energy Efficiency in Cities and Regions



### Summary of CFE webinar - Decarbonising Buildings in Cities and Regions

The purpose of this webinar was to enable participants to share experiences and challenges at different scales and facilitate discussion about whole-of-government approaches to energy efficiency policies in buildings, in the context of the COVID-19 recovery.

After a scene-setting presentation on the OECD's work on building energy efficiency in cities and regions from **Atsuhito Oshima**, Senior Policy Analyst (CFE), OECD, the webinar featured presentations from:

- **Joram Snijders**, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Netherlands
- **Harunobu Murakami**, Director, International Affairs Office, Housing Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- **Yves-Laurent Sapoval**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition - Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities, France
- **Zachary May**, Director, Strategic Policy, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of British Columbia, Canada
- **Paula Rey Garcia**, Deputy Head of Unit C4 - Energy Efficiency: Buildings and Products, DG Energy, European Commission
- **Sara De Pablos**, Environmental and Social Sustainability Advisor, Council of Europe Development Bank

The webinar was moderated by **Aziza Akhmouch**, Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (CFE), OECD.

#### Key Webinar Takeaways:

- **Diverse place-based contexts require a more active role from municipalities to decarbonise buildings.** Buildings and related policy conditions vary across cities and regions. For example, with its large diversity in building energy performance and high dependency on natural gas, the **Netherlands** developed its district-oriented approach, where municipalities take a lead in planning, coordination and citizen involvement to make existing neighbourhoods sustainable and natural-gas free. This approach aims to help people learn and share new ideas regarding heating and insulation techniques in 46 pilot neighbourhoods and, through their experiences, establish what works and what does not.

- **A long-term vision and clarity in regulation will accelerate the energy transition** by building confidence, not only in the private sector, but also in local communities. **British Columbia, Canada** has introduced the [Energy Step Code](#), a building code that aims to achieve net-zero energy ready buildings by 2032. By involving all key stakeholders in its development and providing a clear roadmap, it promoted municipal leadership and, as a result, 70% of new construction processes voluntarily moved to the Step Code in only two years. In **Japan**, more than 200 local and regional governments have committed to become [zero-carbon cities](#) by 2050 under the national goal. These governments represent 90 million people and 3.9 trillion USD in GDP.
- **National governments play a vital role** in setting a policy framework, encouraging subnational actions and enabling a whole-of-government approach. The **Netherlands** involved more than 100 parties in developing the [Dutch Climate Agreement](#) in 2019, clearly identified common challenges and subnational responsibilities, and devised regional energy strategies and local heat transition vision and plans. **Japan's** national government develops and shares with subnational governments a knowledge base, i.e. on health benefits of energy efficiency renovations based on a large-scale survey and environmental assessment tool of buildings. In **France**, the national government introduced a new regulation, RE 2020, which applies to new buildings and requires a life-cycle carbon assessment, including construction and demolition phases.
- **Energy efficiency renovations attract increasing attention and funding opportunities**, especially in the context of COVID-19 recovery. The **European Commission** released the [Renovation Wave](#) strategy, which aims to double the annual energy renovation rate in the next 10 years. 35 million buildings could be renovated and up to 160,000 additional green jobs created by 2030. **France's** €100 billion recovery plan, launched in September 2020, includes €7 billion of energy efficiency retrofits in homes and public buildings. Since 2002, **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** has provided a total of €2.4 billion for projects related to energy efficiency renovation, which is increasingly a priority for subnational governments. These trends present massive opportunities for the low-carbon transition of existing building stock in cities and regions.
- **Better measurement and monitoring remain key challenges at subnational levels** to a more strategic approach, as well as capacity building, skill development and decision-making support for households. As illustrated in the [technical brief](#) by **CEB**, one of the key challenges for cities and regions is measuring and monitoring aggregated policy targets, potential benefits and policy outcomes. **British Columbia's** experience with the Step Code also identified the importance of data related to building assets and operation not only for checking policy outcomes but also for addressing existing buildings. Lastly, decision-making support for households will be another important challenge. For example, in **France's** [MaPrimeRénov'](#) programme, a state agency provides tailored advice for households in renovation planning and evaluation, in addition to financial incentives.

This webinar is part of the **OECD programme, [Building Energy Efficiency in Cities and Regions](#)**, which aims to support countries, regions and cities to enhance their implementation energy efficiency measures in buildings through international peer-learning and tailored case studies. For further information, or if you are interested in participating in the OECD programme, contact Atsuhito Oshima ([atsuhito.oshima@oecd.org](mailto:atsuhito.oshima@oecd.org)).

### About us

As part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, the **Division on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development** works to improve quality of life and achieve more inclusive societies in cities of all sizes, while addressing a range of issues – from managing urban expansion and congestion to encouraging innovation and environmental sustainability.

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