

# OECD Workshop Indicators for local transition to a low-carbon economy in Benelux

## Case study 2: The ALZETTE-BELVAL area

Town Hall, Esch-sur-Alzette, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Luxembourg

## Agenda

### *Organised by*

*OECD LEED Programme, Benelux Union, and the University of Luxembourg*

### *Hosted by*

*Ministère de l'Économie et du Commerce extérieur and the Ville d'Esch-sur-Alzette*

### Background

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This study is proposed within the framework of the [OECD Green Growth Strategy](#).

The project aims to define key indicators of area-based transition to a low-carbon economy. The objective is to define *measurable indicators* at regional/local level that can inform over time of transition to low-carbon economic and industrial activities addressing the two aspects of the green growth economy: fostering job creation and economic development in new areas of growth and sustainable development.

The central aim of the Benelux region is to be a region without borders, improving well-being, mobility, safety and sustainable development. The Benelux Union is a cross-border partnership between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg as well as Flanders, the Walloon government, the French community and the German community of Belgium and Brussels Capital Region.

*This project will examine some of the cross-border regions of the Benelux and define indicators of an area-based transition to a low carbon economy in these regions, with focus on job-creation and economic development in specific cross border areas of growth and sustainable development. Two cross-border assets will be the focus on in-depth analysis:*

- *The cross-border cluster “Bio Based Europe” (in the provinces Western-Flanders, Eastern-Flanders and Zeeland) – the focus of the **Ghent workshop***
- *The cross-border area of Alzette-Belval (the geographic perimeter for consideration corresponds to the area remit of the European Group of Territorial Coordination (EGTC) Alzette/Belval, including the municipalities of Esch/Alzette, Sanem, Mondercange and Schifflange in Luxembourg and the municipalities of Russange, Ottange, Boulange, Redange, Thill, Villerupt, Audan-le-Tiche et Aumetz in France) – the focus of the **Belval workshop**.*

For more information on the project visit the OECD LEED website [www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/projects/lowcarbon](http://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/projects/lowcarbon) or Benelux Union website [www.benelux.int](http://www.benelux.int)

**Venue: Town Hall, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg**

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### ■ Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012

#### Morning session

08:30 – 09:00 *Arrival and registrations*

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome to the workshop**

Mrs. Elisabeth Mannes-Kieffer, Ministère de l'Economie et du Commerce extérieur

Mr. Alain De Muysen, Deputy Secretary- General, Benelux Union

Mr. Jean Huss, 1er Echevin, Ville d'Esch-sur-Alzette

*Facilitator:* Dr. Ariane König, Head of Sustainable Development, University of Luxembourg

09:15 – 10:15 **The OECD project on 'Measuring the Potential of Green Growth'**

Dr. Cristina Martinez, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD LEED Programme

Dr. Samantha Sharpe, Principal Research Fellow, University of Technology, Sydney

**Development of indicators for local transition to a low carbon economy**

***Context, framework, and first suggestions***

Dr. Ariane König, University of Luxembourg

**Presentation on the Opération d'Intérêt National Alzette-Belval**

***Discussion on cross-border implications***

Mr. Sébastien Agamennone, Etablissement Public d'Aménagement d'Alzette-Belval

*Facilitator:* Mr. Alain De Muysen, Deputy Secretary- General, Benelux Union

10:15 – 10:30 **Introduction to the Roundtable sessions**

The roundtable sessions are one of the primary forms suggested by OECD for data collection for the local case studies. There are four consecutive one-hour long topical sessions on this programme. Each session will serve to invite participants to respond to the material they have heard in the presentations in the morning, particularly the background note and first suggestions for local indicators of transition for this topic. The local session leader introduces each topical session. Then discussions take place amongst all workshop participants grouped around four tables, in order to identify priorities of what matters for regional transition and what might be measured. Each table has a discussion leader and a rapporteur. All participants will be asked to write two suggested priorities on a sticky note. These will be collected at each table and ordered under headings on a flip chart in a group discussion.

A member of the OECD expert delegation will also be on each roundtable to welcome participants, pose questions, and add commentary to the roundtable discussions. The final fifteen minutes of the session serve for all tables to present key conclusions to the whole group.

After each session participants (except table facilitators, rapporteurs and OECD experts) are invited to change tables in order to allow for different group dynamics over the day.

*Roundtable leader:* Dr. Ariane König, University of Luxembourg

10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45 – 12:00 **Roundtable session 1. Environmental assets and infrastructure.**

*Setting the scene: a presentation on the site-certification scheme of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen (DGNB) for Belval and experience in gathering local data responding to the DGNB indicators.*

Every region will start the process of transitioning to a low carbon economy with different endowments of assets, including natural assets, infrastructure, and human capital. This first roundtable session investigates the environmental assets and infrastructure. Apart from infrastructure quality, one focus is also environmental quality such as air and water quality, and availability of green spaces and biodiversity. This session will also consider transport emissions and waste volume and how the region responds to issues of regeneration of industrial and contaminated sites and threats to decreasing biodiversity. After establishing the quality of the key natural assets in the area, main topics will be the conversion of industrial waste land, increasing urban areas and development projects, re-naturalization of a river area, developments of parks for ecotourism and leisure, and how can the environmental impacts of increased transport linked to local development plans may be minimized? Requisites to infrastructures will be listed and suggestions for indicators will

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be developed accordingly. The Background note in the morning session presented some relevant information and first suggestions for indicators. This session builds on that information.

*Key questions to be addressed include:* How can the quality of natural and infrastructural assets be further improved? How will these assist to local area in transitioning to a low carbon future?

*OECD experts:* [Dr. Helen Mulligan](#) (Cambridge Architectural Research), [Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#) (Technical University of Denmark), [Prof. Bertil Haack](#) (Technische Hochschule Wildau), [Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#) (Ministry of Environment, Chile), [Mr. Eiko Kauffmann](#) (GIZ), [Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#) (University of Technology Sydney, Australia)

*Session facilitators:* [Dr. Kay Friedrichs](#), [Mr. Paul Wurth SA](#)

*Table facilitators:* [Mrs. Simone Polfer](#), [Dr. Paul Schosseler](#), [Prof. Christian Schulz](#)

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### 12:00 – 13:00 **Roundtable session 2. Greening production and consumption and the role of eco-technologies.**

*Setting the scene: a presentation on the significance of eco-technologies in economic development of the region.*

This roundtable examines the local industry base, its links with the wider economic and labour markets of surrounding areas and highlights key competitive advantages in local industry clusters. This session will also look at the prevalence of start-up and spinout businesses.

The presentations in the morning session described the industrial profile of the Belval region and emerging eco-technologies. This session builds on this evidence to discuss the potential of the existing industry base for 'greening' economic development, by increasing economic activities in the eco-technology sector that ensure greater carbon efficiency of production and operation, and identifying emerging opportunities for the region for economic development that does not rely on increased material production and consumption. Of special interest in this theme will also be the relationship and linkages of eco-technology clusters across country borders in the Benelux region, and the opportunities to leverage these linkages for cluster development.

*Key questions to be addressed include:* How is the emerging 'green' cluster supported? What is the potential of other industrial sectors for greening? How might the currently established industry and the emergent eco-technology cluster interact and what might be implications for the greening of industrial production and the job market? How will this affect competitiveness of the South Luxembourg eco-technology cluster? What role might the European Group on Territorial Coordination (EGTC) play in this?

*OECD experts:* [Dr. Helen Mulligan](#) (Cambridge Architectural Research), [Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#) (Technical University of Denmark), [Prof. Bertil Haack](#) (Technische Hochschule Wildau), [Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#) (Ministry of Environment, Chile), [Mr. Eiko Kauffmann](#) (GIZ), [Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#) (University of Technology Sydney, Australia)

*Session facilitator:* [Mrs. Simone Polfer](#), Ministère de l'Économie et Commerce extérieur

*Table facilitators:* [Dr. Kay Friedrichs](#), [Dr. Paul Schosseler](#), [Prof. Christian Schulz](#)

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13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch offered by the Ministère de l'Économie et du Commerce Extérieur*

### Afternoon session

### 14:00 – 15:00 **Roundtable session 3. Green skills for transition to a low carbon economy.**

*Setting the scene: a presentation on skills eco-systems and the OECD Skills Strategy.*

A cluster of leading public research organisations, including the University will be moved to Belval. These organisations also offer training relating to sustainable development. The development of new 'green' sectors and the greening of existing industrial sectors are closely related to the ability of the region to improve access to education in this area. Especially in this region, the fate of which was closely connected to that of the steel industry, it will be key to develop local and to attract the right pool of talent and skills. Requisites include creating the right labour market conditions and supporting and retaining 'green know how' in people, creating new knowledge through research and education, and developing more opportunities for life-long learning within the region. This session examines local training and skills development organizations, what we refer to as the skills- and training-ecosystem. This eco-system will change with the public research organisations including the University, progressively being moved to Belval over the next years to come. Specific skills sets are needed for emerging green clusters but also generally throughout the local economy to allow existing

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industries to become greener; through more efficient production and operation of local businesses.

*Key questions to be addressed include:* What are the characteristics of the current skills ecosystem in the area? What are the advantages and challenges currently facing the local labour market for green skills development? What role might research and innovation play in developing a greener job market, skills base, and more general the greening of the economy? What support and mechanisms are required for transition to a low carbon economy through more locally targeted training and research?

*OECD experts:* [Dr. Helen Mulligan](#) (Cambridge Architectural Research), [Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#) (Technical University of Denmark), [Prof. Bertil Haack](#) (Technische Hochschule Wildau), [Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#) (Ministry of Environment, Chile), [Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#) (University of Technology Sydney, Australia)

*Session facilitator:* [Dr. Paul Schosseler](#), CRP Henri Tudor

*Table facilitators:* [Dr. Kay Friedrichs](#), [Mrs. Simone Polfer](#), [Prof. Christian Schulz](#)

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### 15:00 – 16:00 **Roundtable session 4. Sustainable strategies for local public and private actors.**

*Setting the scene: a presentation on sustainable strategies and agents of change.*

Regional policy makers and other local stakeholders are faced with the challenges of finding innovative ways of establishing and growing businesses in a sustainable way. Co-creating a business-friendly and competitive local economy that offers employment and skills-development opportunities for local residents is essential. At the same time, firms are called on to protect and enhance the natural and social environments. The background notes in the morning session presented some of the local policy positions on a number of key variables.

*Key questions to be addressed include:* What should be the policy priorities for local public authorities and for firms to stimulate a new economy? How do we identify these priorities? What should be the role of government and other stakeholders in understanding and acting on issues such as job creation for young people, access to capital, emissions reduction, environmental protection, and social integration? Where does the local governance have the strongest leverage? The consideration of cross-border implications and opportunities also to coordinate governance of key questions affecting regional development across the frontier to France with existing regional structures such as the EGTC will also be a key topic here.

*OECD experts:* [Dr. Helen Mulligan](#) (Cambridge Architectural Research), [Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#) (Technical University of Denmark), [Prof. Bertil Haack](#) (Technische Hochschule Wildau), [Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#) (Ministry of Environment, Chile); [Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#) (University of Technology Sydney, Australia)

*Session facilitator:* [Prof. Christian Schulz](#)

*Table facilitators:* [Dr. Kay Friedrichs](#), [Mrs. Simone Polfer](#), [Dr. Paul Schosseler](#)

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16:00 – 16:15 *Coffee break*

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### 16:15 – 17:15 **Panel Roundtable**

[Prof. Bertil Haack](#), Technische Hochschule Wildau, Germany

[Dr. Helen Mulligan](#), Director, Cambridge Architectural, UK

[Dr. Maj Munch Andersen](#), Technical University of Denmark, Denmark

[Dr. Alwine Woischnik](#), Ministry of Environment, Chile

[Dr. Samantha Sharpe](#), University of Technology Sydney, Australia

**Q&A**

*Facilitator:* [Dr. Ariane König](#), University of Luxembourg

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### 17:15 – 17:30 **Closing**

[Mr. Jan van Laarhoven](#), Benelux Union

[Dr. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez](#), OECD

[Dr. Ariane König](#), University of Luxembourg

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17:30 *Cocktail reception hosted by the City of Esch-sur-Alzette*

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