

**SEMINAR SERIES: MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY TRANSITIONS FOR REGIONS AND CITIES****SEMINAR 1: Managing the Transition to a Climate-Neutral Economy**

17 May 2019; 9:30 - 17:00

OECD Headquarters, Room D, Château, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

In the Paris Agreement, parties have agreed to a long-term goal to limit climate change to well below 2°C and make efforts towards 1.5°C. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report warns that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C as early as 2030 if it continues to increase at the current rate, and urges further action of all actors. Given the magnitude of the changes required, this transformation will entail significant changes at local level for our economies and societies, and will unevenly affect citizens, regions and sectors. A relevant challenge is that it will be necessary to ensure a transition to a climate-neutral economy that: a) reflects the diversity of conditions and starting points between and within countries; and b) that can deliver on wider well-being and sustainable development goals. Regions and cities are well placed to develop effective solutions together with the private sector and citizens, but support from the national level is also needed to help them anticipate and manage this transition in a targeted and tailored manner.

This is the first of a five-part seminar series in the context of an EC-OECD project “Managing environmental and energy transitions for cities and regions”. The following workshops will address “Managing environmental transitions in cities”, “Managing the transition to a circular economy”, “Managing environmental transitions in rural areas”, and “Financing, scale-up and deployment”. The outcome of the seminars will feed into the work of the European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the OECD and be summarised in a final OECD publication to inform regional policy makers about current frontier thinking and corresponding policy approaches.

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**9:00-9:30**    **Welcome****9:30-10:00**    **Setting the scene: Challenges and opportunities**

- **Rudiger Ahrend**, Head of Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance Section, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD.
- **Peter Berkowitz**, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission.

**10:00-12:30**    **The New Frontier: What are different pathways to transition and what system changes will we need for different cities and regions?**

- **Moderator: Simon Buckle**, Head of Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, Environment Directorate, OECD.

**Paper presentation**

- **Ralph Chapman**, Professor, School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand
  - Managing the transition to a climate-neutral economy in cities and regions

**Facilitated panel discussion on theoretical approaches and links with practical experience**

- **Aimée Aguilar Jaber**, Team Leader, Climate Change Mitigation Team, Environment Directorate, OECD
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- **Derk Loorbach**, Professor of Socio-economic Transitions at the Faculty of Social Science and Director of DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam, NL
  - **Paula Kivimaa**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre on Innovation and Energy Demand (CIED), University of Sussex, UK
  - **Stefan Muench**, Policy Officer, DG CLIMA, European Commission

Open discussion with all seminar participants

**12:30-14:00 Lunch, OECD Restaurant des Nations**

**14:00-16:30 From theory to practice: What policies can prepare cities and regions for the transition to a climate-neutral economy?**

- **Moderator: Gergana Miladinova**, Team Leader Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO, European Commission

Paper presentation

- **Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Professor**, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
  - What policies can prepare cities and regions for a transition to a climate-neutral economy?

Facilitated panel discussion on policies and practical examples:

- **Ieva Andriulaitytė**, Head of Brussels Office, The Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania
- **Ophélie Risler**, Director, Climate Change Mitigation Department, Ministry of Ecological and Solidary Transition, France
- **Juha Eskelinen**, Regional Director, Helsinki-Uusimaa region, Finland
- **Natalia Vera**, Secretary General, Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

Open discussion with all seminar participants

**16:30-17:00 Seminar takeaways and the way forward**

- **Rudiger Ahrend**, Head of Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance Section, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
- **Peter Berkowitz**, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

**17:00 Close**

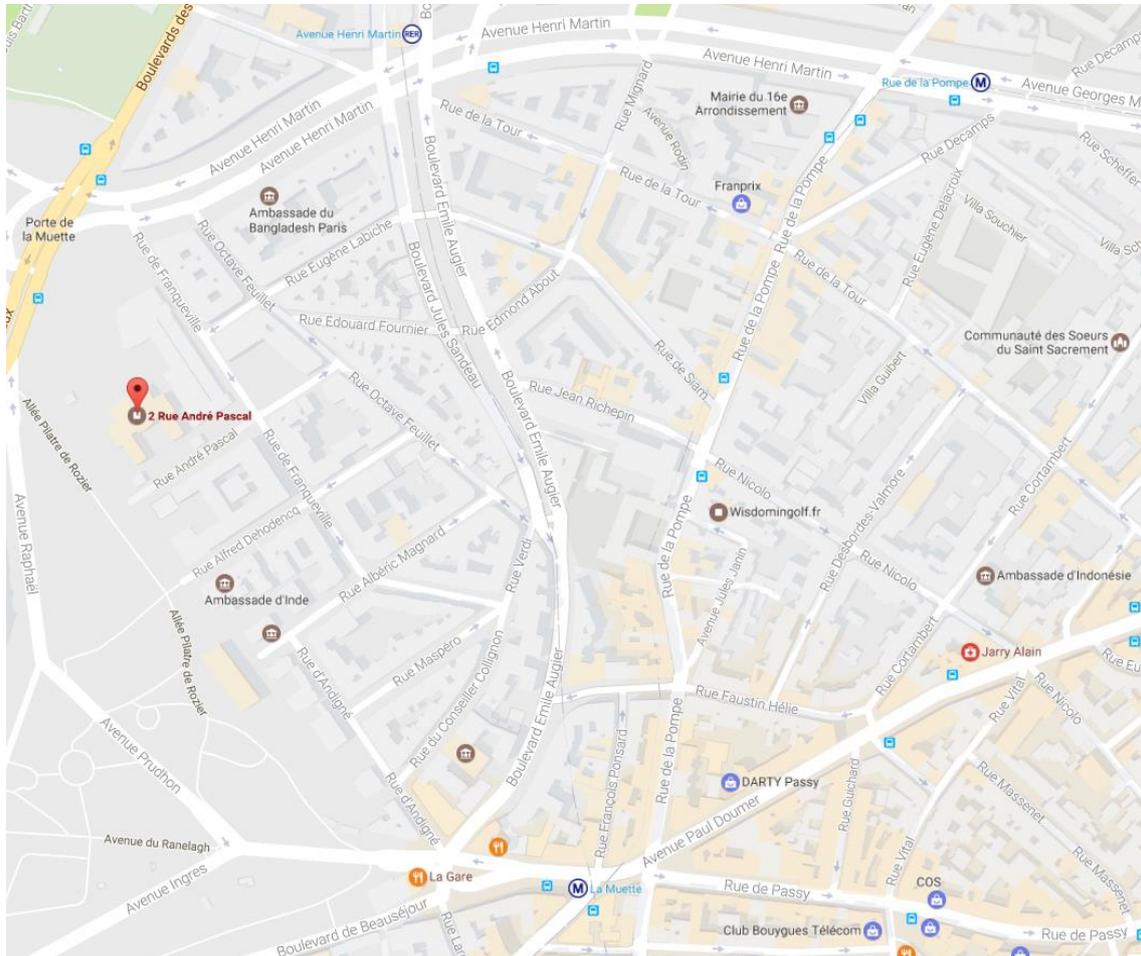
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The seminar will be held in English.

## Logistical information

### Access to the OECD

OECD Headquarters are situated at 2 rue André Pascal, 752016 Paris. The following link provides various different transport options: <https://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/gettingtotheoecd.htm>



Security arrangements are tight around the OECD complex. Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference centre (security badge). There is an initial security check outside the Conference Centre where participants must show a QR pass (sent out by email to registered participants and can be in either printed form or on a smart phone). There is a second formal security entrance inside the Centre where you will be given a badge. **Participants will also need to show some form of ID.**