

# European Energy Efficiency Conference

25 – 27 February 2026  
Wels, Austria

**2026:  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY =  
ENERGY  
INDEPENDENCE**

## Conferences:

- Energy Efficiency Policy
- Industrial Energy Transition
- Smart E-Mobility
- Energy Communities
- Young Energy Efficiency Researchers

**5** dedicated  
conferences


**15+** networking  
hours

**1** large  
tradeshow


[www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at)




# EUROPEAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONFERENCE 2026




5 dedicated conferences




Leading energy tradeshow  
(2025: 73,000 visitors)




15+ networking hours



450+ participants



50 countries



50 speakers

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

New EU Policies • Funding & finance • Market updates • Energy security • Energy flexibility, digitisation and AI

### Industrial Energy Transition Conference

EU Clean Industrial Deal • Green hydrogen, CCUS, energy efficiency, circular economy • Case studies

### Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference

Presenting the work of young energy researchers • Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher Award

### Smart E-Mobility Conference

Technology, policy and market updates • Battery and charging innovations • Electric fleets and trucks

### Poster Presentation

Displaying energy projects, innovations and EU project results to international experts

### Tradeshow

Leading tradeshow ("Energiesparmesse") on energy and buildings • Austrian & international companies present product innovations • 2025: 73,000 visitors

Timetable of the WSED	Tuesday 24 February	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
European Pellet Conference				
European Energy Efficiency Conference				
Energy Efficiency Policy Conference				
Industrial Energy Transition Conference				
Energy Communities Workshop				
Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference				
Young Biomass Researchers Conference				
Smart E-Mobility Conference				
Tradeshow				
Poster Presentation				

# Energy efficiency = energy independence!

Geopolitical instabilities, high energy prices and growing global competition make one thing clear: Europe must urgently increase its energy independence. Energy efficiency is a key asset in this transformation: It reduces energy demand, stabilises prices and makes Europe more resilient.

The European Energy Efficiency Conference 2026 presents policies, technologies and business models which increase competitiveness and make energy more affordable.

## WHO attends the event?

Over 450 experts from more than 50 countries each year!

- **business actors** engaged in the energy transition: energy companies, technology and equipment companies, service providers, planners, developers, financing community etc.
- the energy efficiency **research** community
- **public sector** representatives (e.g. EU institutions, national, regional and local governments, energy agencies)

The entire  
energy  
efficiency  
world!



## WHEN does it take place?

25 – 27 February 2026

## HOW to join?

Mark your calendar and register today!  
([www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at))

## WHERE does it happen?

In Wels/Austria. The region of Upper Austria is an ideal location for this conference: Due to its pioneering role in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, Upper Austria – with Wels at its center – has sharply reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector and is driving a sustainable energy future.

*With the World Sustainable Energy Days, Upper Austria – a leader in the energy transition – is the meeting place for sustainable energy.*

*Europe has set itself the ambitious target of becoming the first climate-neutral continent. We present and discuss solutions to practically implement the energy transition quickly. With energy efficiency and renewable energy, we will ensure competitiveness and decrease energy costs!*

Markus Achleitner, Regional Minister  
for Economy and Energy,  
Upper Austria





# Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

26 February 2026

26 February | 09.00

## Policy Session: Energy independence through clean and affordable energy

What is new in Europe? This session provides practical perspectives on policy and market developments that help to understand future trends. It also highlights the latest developments in financing energy efficiency. The speakers demonstrate that the energy transition is the best pathway to affordable energy and energy independence, and present narratives that build acceptance for this transformation.

- **Opening and welcome**  
Gerhard Dell, ÖÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- **New EU Policies: Affordable and clean energy for Europe**  
Nikolaos Kontinakis, European Commission, DG Energy
- **The European Energy Transition Outlook**  
Seán Collins, Irena
- **The 650 billion Euro EU Recovery and Resilience Facility - impacts on the energy transition**  
Guillaume Débarbat, European Commission, Secretariat-General
- **Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher Award**
- **Energy independence powered by renewable energy**  
Alexander Kirchner, Energie AG, Austria



## Innovation Session: Energy flexibility, digitisation and AI for the energy transition

This innovation session shows how our energy systems can become more dynamic and intelligent. It explores how energy flexibility, digitisation and artificial intelligence can enable more energy efficiency and a better integration of renewables. Through practical examples, participants will gain insights into energy efficient data centres, demand response, VPPs, and grid flexibility.

- **Europe's energy security and climate neutrality**  
Krisztina Zálnoky, Agora Think Tank, Germany
- **What's the story? Narratives for the energy transition**  
Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- **How LIFE projects support the energy transition**  
Michele Sansoni, European Commission, CINEA
- **Financing solutions for energy efficient buildings**  
Angeliki Konstantinopoulou, Sustainable Energy Finance Association
- **The Vilnius One-Stop-Shop: The energy renovation of over 250 multifamily buildings**  
Lina Bubulyte, Amiestas, Lithuania
- **Energy-efficient data centers**  
Marina Köhn, Umweltbundesamt, Germany
- **Flexible homes, flexible grids**  
Marisca Zweistra, ElaadNL, the Netherlands
- **PowerSmart: Creating Virtual Power Plants**  
Brian F. Keane, Smart Power, US
- **Smart energy systems powered by AI**  
Ramona Iske, Fraunhofer IEE, Germany
- **Unlocking flexibility by removing barriers to demand response**  
Felipe Gonzalez Venegas, ACER

13.00 Conference lunch and networking



This conference is organised in the context of the LIFE project "Energy Efficiency Watch 5": [www.energy-efficiency-watch.org](http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org)



# Industrial Energy Transition Conference

26 February 2026

26 February | 14.00

## The Clean Industrial Deal for a resilient and competitive European industry

The European industry is currently faced with manifold challenges including high and volatile prices for fossil fuels, intensified global competition and shifting trade relations. The session presents how the Clean Industrial Deal and related initiatives can secure Europe's industrial future through policies, funding and innovation.

- **Opening and welcome**
- **The EU Clean Industrial Deal**  
Raoul Doerr, European Commission, DG Energy
- **Funding the transformation of industry in Austria**  
Urban Peyker, Austrian Climate and Energy Fund/  
Mission Innovation, Austria
- **Implementing the Clean Industrial Deal in Upper Austria**  
Gerhard Dell, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria





## Pathways for industry transformation – today and tomorrow

The session looks at how industry can turn the challenge of decarbonisation into a competitive advantage. It explores key transformation pathways, such as electrification, green hydrogen, CCUS, energy efficiency, and circular economy, that are already reshaping industrial value chains and opening up new opportunities for sustainable growth.

- **Technology pathways for a competitive industry transformation**  
Thomas Kienberger, Technical University of Leoben, Austria
- **Demonstrating a green, digital and social industry transformation**  
Àngels Orduña, A.SPIRE/Processes4Planet
- **Large-scale CCUS deployment in the cement industry**  
Johanne Bø, Holcim AG, Switzerland
- **CO<sub>2</sub> free manufacturing in the "H<sub>2</sub> based factory"**  
Andreas Kunz, INNIO Group, Austria
- **H<sub>2</sub>Glass: Decarbonising the glass and aluminum industry**  
Chiara Caccamo, SINTEF Energy Research, Norway

## Leading technology examples from industry from Austria and Germany

The session showcases real-life projects from Austria and Germany that demonstrate how companies are already turning innovation into action. With practical examples from key sectors, this session presents resilient business models and innovative solutions that reduce emissions, improve efficiency, and strengthen competitiveness.

- **A holistic approach to green brewing with efficiency and renewables**  
Harald Raidl, Brau Union, Austria
- **Austria's largest industrial climate protection project, greentec steel, implementation in Linz**  
Thomas Moser, voestalpine Stahl, Austria
- **Bioenergy for decarbonising one of Europe's biggest car production sites**  
Bastian Alt, eta Energieberatung, Germany
- **Flexibility and procurement for industry**  
Robert Zoufal, Inercomp, Austria

19.00 Conference dinner



# Smart E-Mobility Conference

27 February 2026

27 February | 08.45

## The latest on EV markets, policies and technologies

This session focuses on the key issues of electric mobility. It highlights market developments in Europe and globally, presents the latest advances in battery technologies, and offers insights into successful electric mobility policies from different countries.

- **Opening and welcome**  
Markus Achleitner, Regional Minister for Economy and Energy, Upper Austria
- **The Global EV Outlook 2025: new records in global EV sales**  
Giovanni Andrean, International Energy Agency
- **Next generation battery technologies**  
Maitane Berecibar, VUB Battery Innovation Center, Belgium
- **Best Practices: EV charging and energy system integration policies**  
Nadejda Khamrakulova, UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe





## Innovation Session: Scaling up EV charging

This session presents existing and future approaches to scaling EV charging. Speakers explore how existing electrical infrastructure and grids can be adapted for growing EV demand, and how new solutions can enable charging at scale. They offer insights into how smart infrastructure planning and innovation accelerates the transition to electric mobility.

- **Using existing idle electrical infrastructures for EV charging**  
Jose Ramón López, Basque Energy Agency, Spain
- **Electrical grids for e-mobility**  
Christine Kühnel, Reiner Lemoine Institut, Germany
- **A megacharger made in Austria**  
Markus Makoschitz, Technical University of Leoben, Austria

## Electric trucks on the rise – examples from Austria

This session showcases real-life examples for fleet conversion, presented by logistics companies at the forefront of the transition. It highlights key lessons learned and success factors and demonstrates that green logistics are already delivering a clear competitive advantage.

- **Electric trucks, large-scale batteries, renewables and more!**  
Nikolaus Skarabela, Schachinger Logistik Holding, Austria
- **Innovative charging solutions – sustainable and profitable**  
Elisabeth Andrieux, Hofmann & Neffe, Austria
- **How can the switch to electric trucks in heavy transport succeed?**  
Michael Schwarz, Schwarz Transporte, Austria
- **Sustainability in logistics**  
Markus Höller, DHL Global Forwarding, Austria

13.00 Conference end



# Workshop Energy Communities

25 February 2026

25 February 2026 | 14.00

## Energy Communities: a driving force for the energy transition

Putting citizens at the centre of the energy transition is no longer an empty slogan: Thousands of Energy Communities across Europe are already demonstrating how collective action can accelerate the deployment of renewables, increase acceptance, and deliver local benefits. This session offers insights into enabling policies, support programmes, innovative financing, the interaction with grids and the use of digital innovation for Energy Communities.

- **EU policies on Energy Communities**  
Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Munoz, European Commission, DG Energy
- **Energy Communities are here to stay!**  
Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- **Highlights and lessons from EU-funded Energy Community projects**  
Talía Brun Marcen, European Commission, CINEA
- **Unlocking finance for energy communities**  
Felix Kriedemann, REScoop.eu
- **Interacting with DSOs**  
Harald Proidl, e-control, Austria
- **Blockchain for Energy Communities**  
Francisco Puente, ESCAN, Spain

We  Energy Communities



## Beyond Theory: Success stories from Energy Communities across Europe

This session presents successful real-world examples from different countries, showcasing how energy sharing and other related community-based approaches are implemented on the ground. Speakers will highlight key success factors, common challenges, and practical lessons learned that can support replication and scaling in other regions and contribute to long-term success of community action.

- **The "Weekend Energy Community"**  
Vlasta Krmelj, ENERGAP, Slovenia
- **Pioneering Energy Communities in Emilia-Romagna and the key role of energy agencies**  
Marco Costa, AESS, Italy
- **First green energy community in Romania**  
Olimpia Nicolae, Coaliția Energie Comunitară, Romania
- **Five remote villages - one Energy Community**  
Savvas Vlacchos, Cyprus Energy Agency, Cyprus
- **Energy belongs in the hands of the community**  
Christian Straßer, Energiewende Feldkirchen, Austria

- **Innovative financing of island Energy Communities**  
Alexis Lozano, Consejo Insular de la Energía de Gran Canaria, Spain
- **Integrating electricity, heat production and renovation**  
Noémie Zambeaux, Auvergne Rhône Alpes Énergie Environnement, France
- **Energy sharing in social housing - social responsibility meets community energy**  
Benjamin Wilkin, Energie Commune, Belgium
- **Bulgaria's Energy Communities in Gabrovo, Burgas and Sofia**  
Diana Paunova-Galeva, Sofia Energy Agency, Bulgaria
- **Energy Communities as a new market force in Greece**  
Chris Vrettos, Electra Energy, Greece

### 19.00 Conference dinner

The workshop is held in the context of the ManagEnergy Initiative and the LIFE Project Power-E-com.





# Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference

24 February 2026

24 February | 9.00

This conference presents the work and achievements of young energy efficiency researchers from all over the world.

- **Opening and welcome**
  - Volker Schaffler, Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure, Austria
  - Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- **Using real-world data to improve predictions of building energy modelling**  
Mojtaba Khastar, University of Ottawa, Canada
- **Neighbourhood-scale decarbonisation in the United States**  
Zoë Cina-Sklar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- **Embodied carbon versus operational carbon: Have we gone too far insulating buildings?**  
Ben Taylor, AECOM / University of Sheffield, UK
- **Robust buildings: optimising energy efficiency, reducing performance gaps**  
Lukas Lauss, TU Munich, Germany
- **Machine Learning with knowledge discovery in databases for retrofit decisions**  
Rafael Oliveira Rodrigues, D4P, Portugal



- **Energy efficient construction with green PCM-enhanced mortars**  
Fatemeh Rabiei, University of Genova, Italy
  - **Carbon fibers for enhancing shape stability and efficiency of PEG PCMs**  
Golnoosh Abdeali / Sahel Saberi, Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland
  - **Corncob ash for sustainable cementitious applications**  
Francis Okeke, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK
  - **Optimising of amorphous carbon films for renewable energy technologies**  
Manuel Schachinger, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
  - **Western Balkan: automated approach to cost-optimality and the definition of notional buildings**  
Arvjola Myrtaj, Fraunhofer IBP, Germany
  - **Assessing 5<sup>th</sup> generation district heating and cooling with CATHeaPS**  
Orestis Angelidis, University of Glasgow, UK
  - **Feedstock in energy system model: defossilisation of the chemical industry**  
Md Anik Islam, University of Stuttgart, Germany
  - **Inequalities in housing energy efficiency in Estonian cities**  
Kirils Gončarovs, University of Tartu, Estonia
  - **Weather routing based on a multi-energy ship microgrid**  
Zhineng Fei / Zhengmao Li, Aalto University, Finland
  - **Cost allocation systems in energy efficiency: tenant preferences in Germany**  
Linus Hübner, University of Kassel, Germany
  - **Digital twin for efficient waste handling in waste-to-chemical facilities**  
Camilla Cordero di Montezemolo / Gianluca Espositom, MyRechemical, Italy
  - **A decision-support dashboard for energy community optimisation**  
Diogo Couceiro / João Victor Costa, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
  - **Bivalent heating with a hybrid heat pump supported by a biomass boiler**  
Jaka Bizjak, Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia
- Chairperson:** Gerald Steinmaurer, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

Conference lunch and networking





# Tradeshow

25 February - 1 March 2026



## Energy transition product innovations in real life!

Visit a major tradeshow on renewable energy and energy efficiency ("Energiesparmesse")! The tradeshow (73,000 visitors in 2025) is held in parallel to the conference.

Austrian and international companies present their latest product innovations. Seize the opportunity to network in person, on the tradeshow floor!

- 400 exhibiting companies
- 73,000 visitors in 2025
- 25 February - 1 March

## Practical information

- Wednesday, 25 February - 1 March 2026  
opening hours: 9.00 - 17.00
- located next to the conference venue
- free entry for conference participants





# Conference Information

## Conference venue

Stadthalle Wels, Pollheimerstrasse 1, 4600 Wels, Austria

## Conference fees

- 375 Euro for the European Energy Efficiency Conference (25 - 27 February)
- 125 Euro each for the conferences: Industry (26 February), E-Mobility (27 February)
- 65 Euro each for the conferences: Policy (26 February), Young Energy Researchers (24 February), Energy Communities (25 February)
- 420 Euro for all WSED conferences (24 - 27 February)
- for student fees see [www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at)

All fees include entrance to the tradeshow, lunches / dinners and conference documentation.

All fees plus 10 % VAT.

## Conference languages

Simultaneous translation in English and German

# Conference Organiser OÖ Energiesparverband

The OÖ Energiesparverband (ESV) is the energy agency of Upper Austria. The agency, which was established by the regional government, drives the energy transition by promoting energy efficiency, renewables and e-mobility. It provides comprehensive services to households, businesses of all sizes and municipalities. It also supports energy technology companies in the context of the Cleantech-Cluster.

# Upper Austria – a leader in the clean energy transition

Upper Austria, one of Austria's nine regions (population 1.5 million), is a leader in the clean energy transition.

- 37 % of the primary energy is supplied by renewables
- 72 % of space heating from renewables and waste heat
- 57 % reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings sector
- 4.6 billion Euro invested annually in renewable energy and energy efficiency

Photos: OÖ Energiesparverband, stock.adobe.com



# European Energy Efficiency Conference 2026

## Date

25 - 27 February 2026

## Venue

Stadthalle Wels, Pollheimerstrasse 1  
4600 Wels, Austria

## Organiser and conference office

ÖÖ Energiesparverband  
Tel. +43/732/7720-14386  
office@esv.or.at | www.wsed.at

## Registration

Online: [www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at)

## How to reach Wels?


- by railway: direct connections from Vienna and Vienna airport, Linz, Salzburg, Munich, etc.
- by car: A1 and A25 motorways
- by air: airports in Vienna (222 km from Wels), Salzburg (110 km), Munich (247 km)

**450** participants  
**50** countries  
**50** speakers



Funding by the region of Upper Austria

 Federal Ministry  
Innovation, Mobility  
and Infrastructure  
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry  
Economy, Energy  
and Tourism  
Republic of Austria



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