

Clean Energy for EU Islands Pledge

Accepting the reality of climatic change and associated risks facing humanity, we islanders commit ourselves to concerted, practical action to enhance the sustainable wellbeing and resilience of our communities via decarbonising our local energy systems and economies.

As islanders together, we recognise that our communities can be especially vulnerable to extreme weather conditions affecting local infrastructure and communications.

We recognise that our own choices as consumers and behaviour as citizens makes a measurable difference to the climate of our home island communities and beyond.

We are aware of other islands successfully rising to the challenges of decarbonising energy generation and supply using many different means.

We are keen to exchange knowledge and share experiences with our peers on other islands.

We recognise ourselves as key stakeholders in the development of effective strategies for reducing carbon emissions in our own island context.

We aspire to early engagement and collaboration with relevant specialists and authorities at every level of governance to inform and inspire local plans to reduce every island's dependence upon fossil fuels.

We invite the collaboration of supportive technical experts to help build the capacity of every island to shape priorities and tailor details of its own low carbon sustainability programme.

We share a common cause in reducing carbon emissions, and commit to collaborating with each other to better address our respective island challenges.

We expect to achieve valuable synergies through concerted action.

We plan to share stories of our progress.

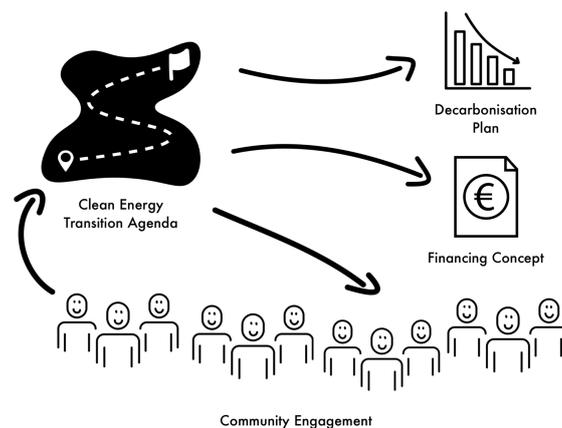
We aspire to being frontrunners of the clean energy transition, and demonstrators of small-scale low carbon technologies to inform strategic developments on the mainland.

To this end...

As islanders together, we pledge to:

Actively participate in the Clean Energy for EU Islands Community and coordinate our action to develop an island-wide Clean Energy Transition Agenda, as a compass for the way forward to the full de-carbonisation of our island, covering three parts:

- ▶ **Community building and stakeholder involvement** to ensure continuity and clear understanding of each stakeholder's position, role and responsibility in the de-carbonisation process.
- ▶ **A de-carbonisation plan** bringing together the visions of the island community and the sequencing of concrete actions required for the fulfilment of these; the inclusion of a baseline emission inventory as well as a preliminary estimate of costs is strongly recommended. The progress should be monitored and adjusted according to the collective vision of the island community.
- ▶ **A financing concept** to ensure feasible financial coverage for implementation of the de-carbonisation plan with the use of locally owned and managed financing solutions.



To ensure the Clean Energy Transition Agenda is anchored within our island community:

- ▶ **All relevant stakeholders on our islands are invited to commit together to take part in the Clean Energy Transition Agenda**
By committing to the Clean Energy for EU Islands Community, island communities officially share the responsibility for a clean energy transition with the relevant stakeholders. The initial commitment is made between a minimum of two parties, with at least one representative being a public authority.

Capacity building on our island to steer the clean energy transition

To anchor and ensure the energy transition is led by the islands stakeholders, island communities should build capacity to manage the energy transition locally also by utilising the EU wide network of Islands within the Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative who share the same ambitions.

The Clean Energy Transition Agenda will be agreed internally and submitted to the Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat within one year after the official commitment date. We accept that our Island may be suspended from the initiative – subject to prior notice in writing by the Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat – in case of non-submission of such this Clean Energy Transition Agenda.

As islanders together, we acknowledge that this requires:

- ▶ Strong level of all collaboration among all relevant stakeholders in the clean energy transition process;
- ▶ Engaged and determined citizens, local authorities, businesses and academia;
- ▶ A cross-sector, cross-administrational effort in a holistic territorial approach;
- ▶ The allocation of appropriate human, technical and financial resources;
- ▶ The implementation of socially and technologically smart solutions enhancing the quality and performance of the energy and transport system to address the societal and technical challenges of the energy transition;
- ▶ A combined horizontal cooperation among all EU Islands and vertical cooperation between all other levels of government ranging from local to European level.

As islanders together, we welcome:

The initiative of the European Commission bringing all EU islands with ambitions for clean energy transition – under this single umbrella of Clean Energy for EU Islands Initiative. We also welcome the strengthening of the synergies with other relevant EU policies, as well as its newly adopted legal framework originating from the Clean Energy for All Europeans Package and in particular the revised Electricity Regulation and Electricity Directive related to Citizens Energy Communities and Renewable Energy Communities.

The European Parliament work on the clean energy for EU islands and their specific efforts done in the Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (SEARICA);

The support of the Committee of the Regions, as the institutional voice of EU local and regional authorities, for the Clean Energy for EU Islands and its objectives;

The Covenant of Mayors and the Pact of Islands as a guiding reference framework for the bottom up approach of the Clean Energy for EU Islands;

The assistance provided by the Member States, regions, provinces, mentor islands and other institutional structures for islands in complying with their mitigation and adaptation commitments under the Covenant of Mayors;

As islanders together, we invite:

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TO:

- ▶ Utilise their entrepreneurial spirit in developing socially inclusive and environmentally responsible projects for a clean energy transition that strengthens the local economy and improves the quality of life;
- ▶ Engage with the public authorities as vital actors in the de-carbonisation process, and to strengthen the collaboration with local businesses and educational institutions.

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ADMINISTRATING OUR ISLAND TO:

- ▶ Join the process of developing a Clean Energy Transition Agenda providing opportunities for common visions, plans and actions across public administrations and strengthen joint planning, projects and procurement.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES TO:

- ▶ See active engagement in the island community as an investment in the future economy on the island;
- ▶ Develop innovative technologies and tools that will enable the decarbonisation of islands communities while boosting the local economies.

EDUCATIONAL- AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES TO:

- ▶ Acknowledge and utilise the potential insular energy systems have as territories to showcase scalable clean energy solutions;
- ▶ Highlight best practices and introduce research and education actions oriented at advancing the clean energy transition on islands.

OTHER ISLANDS TO:

- ▶ Join us in the Clean Energy for EU Islands community;
- ▶ Share knowledge and engage in capacity-building activities together with us in further strengthening the Clean Energy for EU Islands community.

OTHER SUB-NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS TO:

- ▶ Provide us with strategic guidance, policy, technical and financial support in the development, implementation and monitoring of our de-carbonisation plans and related actions as described in our Clean Energy Transition Agendas; Help us foster cooperation and joint approaches among likeminded islands for more efficient and integrated action.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

- ▶ Shoulder their responsibility in tackling climate change and provide appropriate policy, technical and financial support for the preparation and implementation of our island wide de-carbonisation plans;
- ▶ Ensure appropriate access to financing mechanisms to support local energy action; Recognise the impact of our local efforts, take account of our needs and reflect our views in the European and international climate processes.

THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS TO:

- ▶ Consolidate policy frameworks which support the implementation of island-wide de-carbonisation plans and further cooperation among all EU Islands;
- ▶ Provide us with the appropriate operational, technical and promotional assistance;
- ▶ Anchor the Clean Energy for EU Islands in relevant policies, support programmes and activities of the European Union, whilst involving us in the preparation and implementation phases;
- ▶ Continue making funding opportunities available for achieving in the de-carbonisation as well as proposing dedicated project development assistance facilities that help us to develop, tender and launch investment programmes;
- ▶ Acknowledge our role and efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation and share our achievements with the international community