

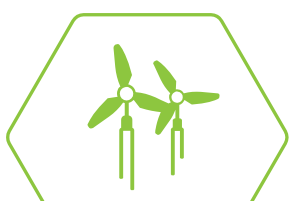
**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**FEEL**

**FEEL helps policymakers understand the frugal city approach, applying resource sufficiency and community cooperation to achieve a greener Europe.**



**GREEN**



**1.62 M  
EU FUNDING**

**Mar 2023**

**May 2027**

**An interregional cooperation project for  
improving energy efficiency policies**

**Project Partners**

**Local Climate and Energy Agency of South Brittany (FR)**  
Cork City Council (Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí) (IE)  
Bistrita Municipality (RO)  
Frederikshavn Municipality (DK)  
Liguria Region (IT)  
Valencia Climate and Energy Foundation (ES)  
Mazovia Energy Agency (PL)  
North Sweden Energy Agency (SE)  
Energy Cities (FR)

This is the inaugural Newsletter of the Interreg Europe FEEL Project. In this issue, we will introduce our project partners and explain a little about the aims of the FEEL Project.

**FEEL: Frugal cities through Energy Efficiency and Low-tech living.**



### **Project Partnership Group**

From L-R: Isabella Katsimenis (Energikontor Norr), Marie Laure Lamy (Aloen), Marine Clavel (Lorient), Kristina Dely (Energy Cities), Brian Cassidy (Cork City Council), Liliana Cocesi (Bistrita Municipality), Iulia Popartac (Bistrita Municipality), Bahram Dehigan (Frederikshavn Municipality), Tim Cordy (Project Secretariat), Mariagiovanna Laudani (Project Secretariat), Lisa Croyere (ALOEN), Carola Waara (Energikontor Norr), Bartosz Dubinski (Mazovia Energy Agency), Patricia Tobin (Cork City Council), Karin Rasmussen (Frederikshavn Municipality), Zaneta Latarowska (Mazovia Energy Agency), Giulia Malafarina (Liguria Region), Corentin Girard (Valencia Energy and Climate Foundation), Sylvie Lacassagne (Energy Cities), Adeline Pedron (ALOEN)



# Welcome

## To the first edition of the Frugal Cities Project Newsletter

The challenge we face in the midst of the current energy crisis has highlighted how dependent we are on energy and resources from outside our borders. This has led to citizens becoming more conscious about energy use in their homes and the necessity to reduce their consumption. Europe has developed a Circular Economy Action Plan to promote sustainable growth and reduce pressure on natural resources. Governments are striving to implement an improved process where resources are repurposed over disposal in line with the Action Plan. However, with community cooperation, the collective benefit of groups of people choosing to monitor their own resource use will reduce our consumption and the resultant energy demand. With a combined effort, we can do so much more.

The objective of the **Frugal Cities Project** is to apply the principles of **sufficiency** in renovating older housing, revitalising urban services, and improving energy efficiency using ultra-simple solutions while empowering their **communities** to think about their own resource use. Sufficient actions aim to meet needs without altering the result and ensuring that resources are preserved.

The motivation behind the project is from the over-use of resources and the impact this has on biodiversity and the ability of future generations to prosper. In a frugal city, materials are optimized to improve circularity pathways and resource management.

### Local Climate and Energy Agency of South Brittany, France

ALOEN, our Lead Partner on the FEEL Project, is the local energy and climate agency for Southern Brittany. Its mission is to accelerate the energy transition, and it is increasingly working on adaptation and resilience to climate change.

With a workforce of 30 employees, the team works with private individuals to carry out energy-efficiency work on their homes, businesses, people in fuel poverty and local authorities.

ALOEN's president is Lorient Agglomération's vice-president for ecological transition, fostering a strong link with the authority and the ability to act.

As part of the FEEL project, ALOEN is working closely with the City of Lorient to improve its Territory Contract which is engaged in ecological transition. The City of Lorient is acting on sobriety through its calls for tenders by setting sobriety criteria. It has also drawn up a resilience plan with a strong focus on sobriety, but thanks to the FEEL project and its collaboration with ALOEN, it hopes to go even further.





### Cork City Council, Cork, Ireland

Cork City is Ireland's second largest city with a population of over 223,000 in the metropolitan area. Cork City Council is responsible for managing the roads, parks, and housing along with lighting, transport and planning in the city. Cork City Council will influence their policy instrument, the Cork Climate Action Plan due for release in 2024 as part of the FEEL project. Cork has been chosen in the EU Mission Cities project striving to reach net zero by 2030 and was named the No.1 city for economic potential in the Financial Times European Cities of the Future Awards. Inclusion in the Interreg FEEL Project is an opportunity to engage with our local community to encourage them to think about their energy use. To implement the concept of frugality in Cork City would greatly improve the quality of life for our citizens ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.



### Bistrița Municipality, Romania

Capital of Bistrița- Năsăud County, Bistrița City located in the Transylvania Region and has a population of about 90,000 inhabitants. Bistrița is known as "The gate of Transylvania", inviting the opportunity to showcase the history, architecture, and beauty of a city representative of this region. Bistrița Municipality is the local public authority responsible for the administration of the City and solving the problems of the local community. Bistrița Municipality is signatory of the Covenant of Mayors European Initiative and since 2021, a signatory of the 'Green City Accord' thus committing itself to implementing public policies and programs in an integrated manner. The challenges ahead of Bistrița's climate neutrality and climate change adaptation paths require sustainable urban development solutions, and the municipality is eager to apply the concept of frugality in the regeneration of the historic city centre, to create a 'greener' urban environment for the next generation, while also setting an example of fruitful community cooperation.





### Frederikshavn Municipality, Denmark

Frederikshavn Municipality is the northernmost municipality in Denmark with 58,783 inhabitants. Geographically, the municipality extends over approximately 105km of coastline near the North Sea. The Climate, Development, and Communication Department is the secretariat for the Municipality's Global Goals Committee and is responsible for communicating and revising Frederikshavn Climate Development Strategy. Our main purpose is to disseminate, motivate, engage, involve, organize, and cooperate with local stakeholders in translating the Frederikshavn Climate Development Strategy into concrete actions. To meet the objectives of the climate strategy, it is necessary to focus on the principles of sufficiency and frugality. Encouraging sufficiency involves thinking about technologies, infrastructures and lifestyles and stakeholders can have a key role in achieving that.

### Liguria Region, Italy

Liguria Region is an Italian region in the North-West of Italy composed of 234 municipalities, divided into four provinces (Genova, La Spezia, Savona and Imperia).

Liguria Region has the responsibility of planning the regional territory and mobility within it, preparing and organising health and social services, and promoting the valorisation of environmental, cultural and landscape assets.

In January 2021, the Liguria Region approved the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development identifying People, Planet, and Prosperity and in a more limited form, Peace as priority action areas. A Regional Strategy specific part is represented by the 3-year Green Public Procurement (GPP) Plan 2022-2024. This plan is strictly connected with the UN Agenda 2030, the Green Deal, and the objectives of the European Action Plan for the Circular Economy.



### Valencia Climate and Energy Foundation of Valencia City Council

València Clima i Energia is a municipal foundation of the Valencia City Council. The fundamental axes of our work are information and training on climate change and the promotion of the energy transition to transform the city into a resilient city capable of facing the challenges of global warming. We work with citizens and local stakeholders to turn Valencia into a more sustainable and fairer city. We manage the Climate Change Observatory and the Energy Offices of Valencia, two educational and training centres that connect local municipal climate and energy policies with people. We attract investment from European projects and put our experience in managing human and material resources at the service of citizens and institutions.



### Mazovia Energy Agency, Warsaw, Poland

The Mazovian Energy Agency is improving the policy instrument in the Mazovian Region. Mazovia Energy Agency (MAE) was established in March 2009 by the Mazovian Voivodeship to set up an energy & climate policy in the region to assist public and private institutions in the development of a comprehensive, regional sustainable development. MAE with a balanced structure of stakeholders and work programme fulfils public mission and is recognized regionally, nationally and at EU level. The Agency performs tasks in the field of protection of the natural environment, energy conservation, as well as in promotion of rational, environmentally friendly use of energy. MAE conducts activities aimed at popularization of pro-ecological methods of energy production, especially based on renewable sources. The Agency undertakes works aimed at recognizing the possibilities, needs and resources related to energy in the Mazovian Voivodeship – called the heart of Poland.



### **Energikontor Norr, Overkalix Municipality, Sweden**

Energikontor Norr, is the Energy Agency in Norrbotten County. Sweden's northernmost county that can be compared to the size of Portugal or Austria. In the middle of Norrbotten County is Overkalix Municipality, with an area of 2792KM<sup>2</sup> which is slightly smaller than the County Blekinge in the South and a mere 50km from the Finnish border. The Energikontor Norr will influence the policy in the Overkalix Municipality. The population of the Overkalix Municipality is around 3200 people, located 100km from the central town of Luleå and 1000km from Capital Stockholm.

“Our biggest challenge is to implement a new mindset in our citizens so that decisions made, both in the municipality or at company level, incorporate individuals and considers the environmental impact of their decisions prioritising reuse, frugality, and sufficiency.”

With the FEEL Project we want to change the strategic focus in our policy instrument. We want to modify existing measures, create new measures & reallocate funds between measures incorporating some of the action areas mentioned above with a focus on providing leadership, support, and actions that build knowledge while harnessing the opportunities of frugality and sufficiency in policies.



### **Energy Cities**

Energy Cities is a community of several hundred local authority representatives from 30 countries. The network gathers frontrunners and energy transition beginners, city officials and technical experts. We are a learning community for cities engaged in future proofing their economies, built around a “local & sustainable first” approach. Our strength lies in our members’ strong commitment to reach climate neutrality in their territories by 2050 and to align their local strategic development with the Paris Agreement. Building a learning community is a tool that helps each of our members feel more confident in their own transition journey, because other cities have done it before, or because cities can test new solutions together. We foster an atmosphere of mutual trust in the dialogue between citizens, local leaders, and EU & national institutions in order to accelerate the transformation towards a climate-neutral Europe. Energy Cities energises this vibrant community and ensures its visibility. For the FEEL Project, Energy Cities as the Advisor Partner will coordinate project partners, thematic events, and study visits improving learnings and enabling the energy transition in Europe.



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



MUNICIPIUL  
BISTRIȚA



València  
Clima i Energia



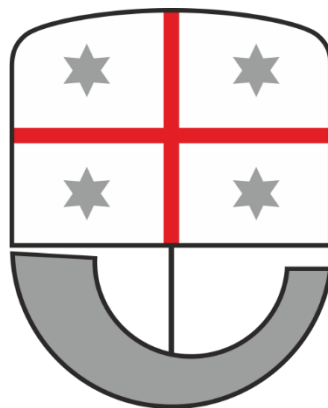
Energikontor  
Norr



ÖVERKALIX  
KOMMUN



ENERGYCITIES



REGIONE LIGURIA



**MAE**

Mazowiecka Agencja  
Energetyczna

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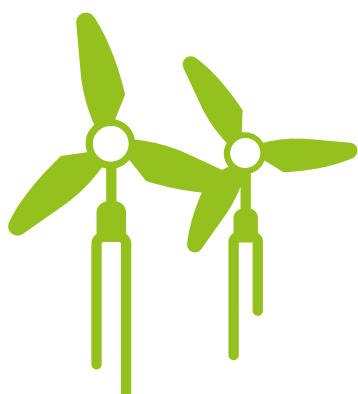
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