

D.3.2 The Second CommitClimate National Workshop

Report

Timeframe: June 2024 – May 2025

Countries Covered: Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Poland

Participants: 300+ municipality representatives, experts, researchers and business associates

The second CommitClimate National Workshops were organised between June 2024 and May 2025, bringing together more than 300 municipality representatives, experts, researchers, and business stakeholders across participating countries. Building on the outcomes of the first workshop cycle, these events aimed to further support municipalities in advancing climate action through knowledge exchange, practical tools, and collaborative dialogue.

Across four countries – Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, and Poland – the workshops addressed key sectoral challenges and priorities related to climate neutrality, with a particular focus on transport decarbonisation, energy efficiency, district heating and cooling systems, and strategic energy planning. The events combined expert presentations, interactive discussions, and hands-on sessions, including demonstrations and practical use of the CommitClimate CO₂ Simulator, enabling participants to explore its application in real-world municipal contexts. The workshops also served as a platform for sharing policy developments, technological solutions, and best practices, while fostering cooperation between public authorities, research institutions, and industry stakeholders. Participants engaged in discussions on barriers to implementation, data availability, financing mechanisms, and the role of local governments in achieving national and European climate targets.

Insights gathered during these workshops contributed to further refinement of CommitClimate tools and approaches, highlighting both common challenges and country-specific needs. This report provides a structured overview of the second round of national workshops, summarising their content, key takeaways, and feedback from participants, as well as outlining recommendations to support future development and implementation efforts.

2nd National Workshop in Latvia

Technical information:

Date: 22nd November, 2024

Organizers: Riga Technical University Institute of Energy Systems and Environment

Workshop type: In-person

Participants: 32 participants from various Latvian municipalities, regional authorities, research institutions and businesses

Event description:

Within the framework of the CommitClimate project, a national workshop titled “Transport Decarbonisation: A Challenge Requiring Immediate Action on Both Demand and Supply Sides” was organised on 22nd November 2024 in Cēsis, Latvia. The event brought together representatives from municipalities, regional authorities, research institutions, and businesses to discuss the role of the transport sector in achieving climate neutrality and to exchange experiences on possible policy and technological solutions.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness about transport sector emissions and highlight the need for coordinated action in both policy development and practical implementation. Experts emphasised that reducing emissions from transport is crucial for meeting national and European climate targets and requires integrated solutions involving infrastructure development, behavioural change, and technological innovation.

During the event, representatives from Riga Technical University presented the CommitClimate CO₂ Simulator, a scenario-modelling tool that enables municipalities to analyse greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate the potential impact of different policy measures. The tool demonstrates how various policy scenarios can influence emission reduction outcomes and helps municipalities visualise the consequences of delayed climate action. The simulator supports evidence-based planning by combining local input data with integrated national datasets and system-dynamics modelling approaches.

The workshop also featured presentations and discussions related to the SPOTLOG project, focusing on sustainable logistics and the role of data-driven decision-making in transport decarbonisation. Participants explored policy instruments, financial mechanisms, and infrastructure development needed to support low-emission mobility and sustainable logistics systems.

An interactive discussion session enabled participants to identify key barriers to decarbonisation, including limited charging infrastructure, financial constraints, and insufficient policy incentives. Stakeholders also discussed potential solutions such as targeted subsidies, improved access to EU funding, and stronger collaboration between public authorities and private sector actors.

Overall, the national workshop contributed to the dissemination of CommitClimate project results and strengthened dialogue among stakeholders on practical pathways toward decarbonising the transport sector. The event highlighted the importance of data-based decision-making tools and cross-sector cooperation in accelerating the transition to climate-neutral mobility systems.

2nd National Workshop in Estonia

Technical information:

Date: 9th October, 2024

Organizers: Tallin University of Technology (TalTECH), Enerhack, Estonian Power and District Heating Association (EJKÜ)

Workshop type: Online

Participants: 189 participants from various European countries, including municipality representatives, energy experts, and policymakers

Event description:

The 2nd CommitClimate national workshop was organized as part of the Energy Efficiency Academy webinar series, focusing on energy efficiency in district heating and cooling (DHC) systems.

The workshop consisted of a series of expert presentations followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A session. TalTECH professor Anna Volkova presented key indicators for evaluating heat consumption and energy efficiency across EU Member States, highlighting trends in household, industrial, and service sector energy use, as well as the importance of localized approaches to energy planning. Igor Krupenski from Enerhack introduced the CommitClimate project and demonstrated the capabilities of the Simulator designed to support municipalities in calculating CO₂ emissions and planning pathways towards climate neutrality. The presentation emphasized the tool's flexibility, scenario modelling capabilities, and the availability of training materials to support its implementation across different regions.

Siim Umbleja from EJKÜ presented the development and application of energy efficiency labels for district heating and cooling systems in Estonia, highlighting their role in increasing transparency, supporting renewable energy integration, and improving overall system performance. The session concluded with an open discussion, where participants engaged with speakers on practical challenges and opportunities related to energy efficiency and sustainable heating systems.

Key takeaways:

The main insights from the workshop were:

- District heating and cooling systems represent a significant share of energy consumption in Europe, requiring targeted and data-driven strategies to improve efficiency
- Energy efficiency indicators and benchmarking approaches are essential tools for understanding consumption patterns and supporting informed decision-making at the municipal level
- The CommitClimate Simulator can support municipalities in modelling emissions, exploring scenarios, and planning effective climate actions

- Standardized energy efficiency labels enhance transparency and encourage the transition toward more sustainable and low-emission heating systems
- Regional differences in energy demand and infrastructure highlight the need for tailored, context-specific solutions
- Continued knowledge exchange, training, and practical guidance are crucial for successful implementation of tools and policies

2nd National Workshop in Sweden

Technical information:

Date: 13th May, 2025

Organizers: Sustainable Business Hub, Lappland Municipal Association

Workshop type: Online

Participants: 28 participants from various Swedish municipalities, regions and counties

Event description:

On May 13th, Sustainable Business Hub organized its' second national workshop for the CommitClimate project in collaboration with Lappland Municipal Association, one of our project partners. The event, titled "Simulera framtiden: Strategisk energi- och klimatplanering med CommitClimate Simulator" (Simulate the future: Strategic energy and climate planning with CommitClimate Simulator) was aimed at municipalities across Sweden. Silva Herrmann from Lappland Municipal Association in North Sweden, ran the workshop demonstration and FAQs session.

The workshop was structured into 4 parts:

1. **Introduction:** Brief overview of the CommitClimate project and introduction of all the participants.
2. **Tool demonstration:** Silva Herrmann took over to demonstrate the CommitClimate Simulator. Her expertise and insights were invaluable in showcasing the tool's capabilities and potential applications.
3. **Hands-on session:** Participants were given 35-40 minutes to test the tool themselves. During this time, organizers were present in the meeting room to answer any questions and provide support via the chat box. This interactive session allowed participants to explore the tool's features and functionalities in a practical setting.
4. **Q&A discussion:** The final part of the workshop was a comprehensive question-and-answer session with all of the participants. This open discussion provided an opportunity to address any remaining queries and gather valuable feedback.

To ensure that participants' thoughts and suggestions were captured, a feedback form was distributed the day after the workshop. This feedback will help improve future sessions and ensure the needs of stakeholders are met.

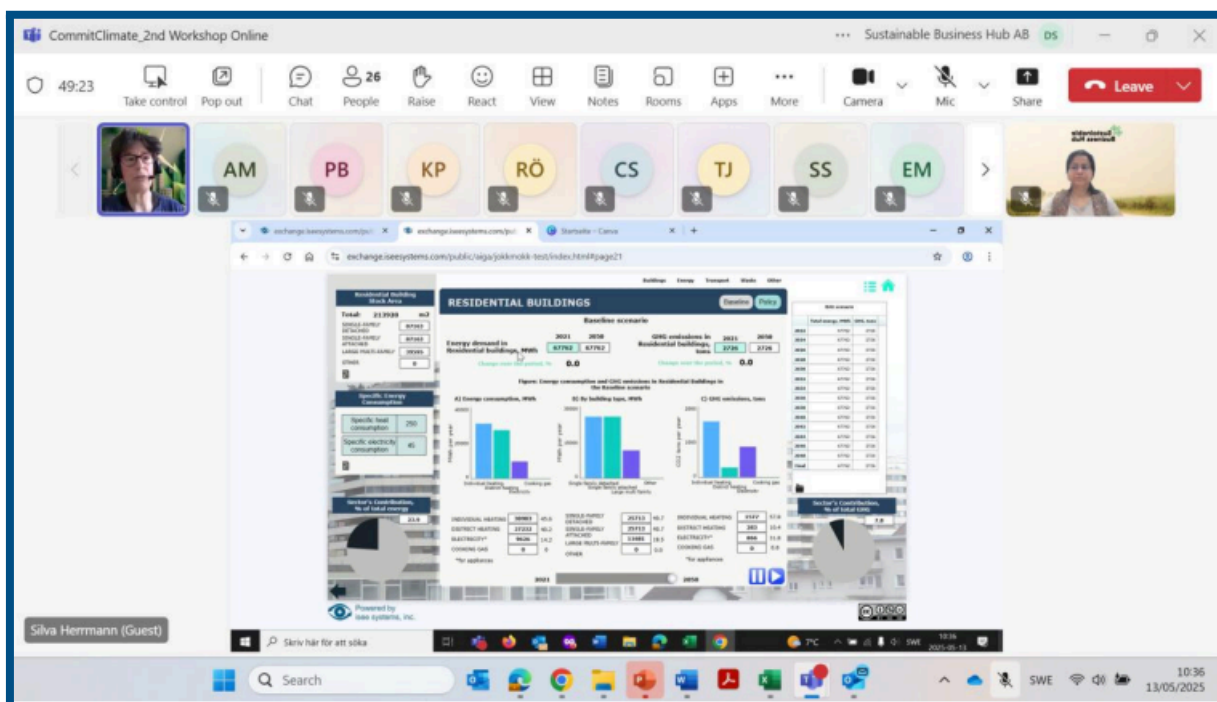
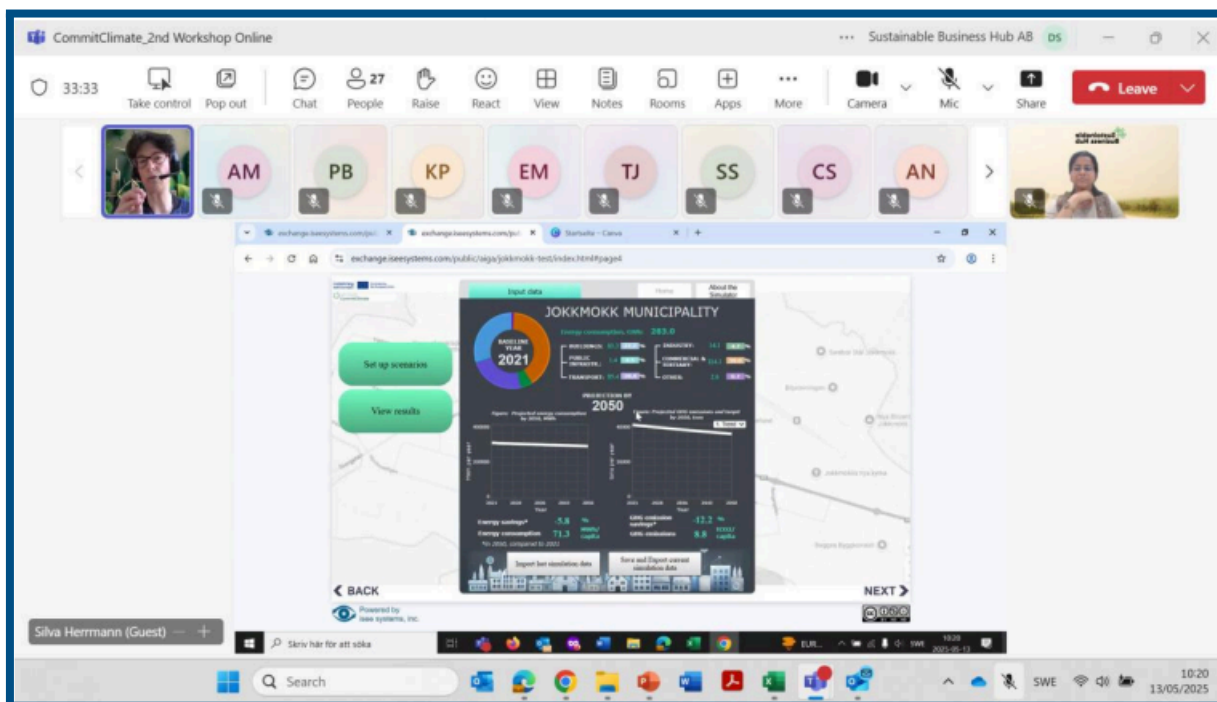
Key takeaways:

The main feedback point regarding the Simulator was:

- The simulator should better reflect life-cycle emissions, particularly for technologies such as electric vehicles, where production-related emissions are currently not fully considered

- Clear guidance is needed on data collection and sources, as municipalities face challenges in identifying and accessing the required input data
- The tool would benefit from benchmarking or reference pathways (e.g. alignment with 1.5°C targets) to help users understand their progress toward climate goals
- Users highlighted the need for more flexible fuel options, especially for transport, to better represent real-world conditions (e.g. mixed fuel fleets, specific fuels like HVO100)
- There is interest in understanding how the tool compares to other platforms (e.g. ClimateView), emphasizing the importance of clear positioning and differentiation
- Some usability improvements are needed, including interface clarity and navigation, as well as better explanation of input units (e.g. per capita, per area, or total values)
- The fact that the tool is free of charge was seen as a strong advantage, particularly for municipalities with limited financial resources

Images:



2nd National Workshop in Poland

Technical information:

Date: 13th – 14th June, 2024

Organizers: Association of Municipalities Polish Network „Energie Cités” (PNEC)

Workshop type: In-person

Participants: 82 participants from various Polish municipalities, cities, agencies and associations

Event description:

Representatives of Polish cities and municipalities met on 13 and 14 June during an event entitled “Cities and municipalities on the way to climate neutrality”, organised by the Association of Municipalities Polish Network “Energie Cités”. Participants had the opportunity to listen to invited experts from, among others, the Ministry of Climate and Environment, National Energy Conservation Agency, Institute for Sustainable Development or National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Poland.

The first session was focused on the directions of climate and energy reforms in Poland until 2050. The speakers discussed topics such as strategic approach to the energy transition, energy and climate in local government authorities and amendment to the law on energy efficiency and energy performance of buildings. Then was a panel discussion where participants emphasised the need to involve local governments more widely in consultations with national authorities, which would help to align decisions taken at a higher level with the real needs and capacities of the entities and units that subsequently implement them. The speakers were consistent in talking about the key role of local authorities in the decentralisation of the electricity system, without whose involvement the transformation will not be possible.

The next part of the seminar was devoted to energy communities and their importance for a successful fair transition process. Then, the participants were invited to take part in a good practice session, during which, in smaller groups, they could benefit from the experiences of the invited guests related to local energy efficiency measures. The second day of the seminar was dedicated to new perspectives in the development of cities and municipalities. Then, the participants again had the opportunity to take part in a good practice session.

The event "Cities and municipalities on the way to climate neutrality" was a great opportunity to learn more about the energy transition at local level, the role of citizen energy in this process and local climate action.

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