

## D.3.2 The Third CommitClimate National Workshop

### Report

**Timeframe:** May – October 2025

**Countries Covered:** Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Poland

**Participants:** 400+ municipality, city and energy company representatives, researchers, climate and engineering experts

The third CommitClimate National Workshops were organised between May and October 2025, bringing together more than 400 representatives from municipalities, cities, energy companies, research institutions, and expert organisations. Building on the previous workshop cycles, these events further strengthened stakeholder engagement and supported the practical implementation of climate planning tools at the local level.

Across four countries – Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, and Poland – the workshops focused on advancing climate-neutral development through enhanced energy planning, citizen engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. The events combined expert presentations, interactive discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, with particular emphasis on the application of the CommitClimate Simulator as a decision-support tool for municipalities and other stakeholders.

Participants explored a wide range of topics, including renewable energy integration, energy efficiency, industrial decarbonisation, and the role of local governments in the green energy transition. The workshops also provided a platform to showcase innovative solutions, exchange practical experiences, and discuss policy frameworks and regulatory developments at both national and European levels.

The insights gathered during these workshops contributed to the continued improvement of CommitClimate tools and methodologies, highlighting emerging challenges, user needs, and opportunities for further development. This report presents a structured overview of the third round of

national workshops, summarising their content, key outcomes, and stakeholder feedback, while outlining recommendations to support future climate action and tool implementation.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> National Workshop in Latvia

### Technical information:

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

**Organizers:** Riga Technical University Institute of Energy Systems and Environment

**Workshop type:** In-person

**Participants:** 48 participants

### Event description:

In Latvia, the third national workshop “Shaping Regional Energy Futures: From Renewables to Climate Neutrality” focused on citizen engagement and municipal climate planning, presenting the *CommitClimate* simulator as a practical decision-support tool for local governments. The event encouraged knowledge exchange between municipalities and stakeholders and provided practical insights into the use of digital modelling tools for climate-neutral development.

This national workshop was organised within the framework of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project *CommitClimate*, in collaboration with the *EnergyEquilibrium* initiative. The event aimed to support municipalities in taking concrete steps towards climate neutrality by strengthening their understanding of renewable energy integration, policy developments, and practical planning approaches.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from municipalities, public authorities, research organisations, and energy sector actors. Among the speakers were leading experts and practitioners, such as Dagnija Blumberga from Riga Technical University, municipal representatives from Kuldīga, as well as international partners from Sweden. Contributions also included perspectives from national authorities, including the Ministry of Climate and Energy.

The programme focused on practical pathways to decarbonising regional energy systems. Key topics included the synergy between wind energy and hydrogen technologies, municipal-level climate neutrality strategies, and lessons learned from municipalities in Latvia and Sweden. Participants also explored emerging policy frameworks, including emissions trading systems and their implications for local governments.

A central component of the workshop was the hands-on session, where participants had the opportunity to test innovative planning tools developed within the *CommitClimate* and *EnergyEquilibrium* projects. These platforms are designed to support municipalities in evaluating energy transition scenarios, integrating renewable energy solutions, and making data-driven decisions towards climate neutrality.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in discussions on how to develop resilient, climate-neutral local energy systems, exchanged best practices, and explored concrete solutions applicable to their municipalities. The workshop provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and fostering collaboration across the Baltic Sea region.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> National Workshop in Estonia

### Technical information:

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

**Organizers:** Tallin University of Technology (TalTECH), Enerhack

**Workshop type:** In-person

**Participants:** 264 participants from various Estonian municipalities, associations, heating and energy companies, chemical industries, engineering firms and research institutions

### Event description:

This national workshop was organised in the frame of Energy Technology Speciality Day as part of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project CommitClimate, aiming to increase public and institutional awareness of energy transition challenges and to demonstrate citizen engagement tools, including the CommitClimate Simulator.

The Energy Technology Speciality Day brought together representatives from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including district heating companies (Utilitas, Adven, Narva Soojus, SW Energy), energy companies (Enefit, Elektrilevi), chemical industries (VKG, UP Catalyst), public authorities (Ministry of Climate), engineering firms (Filter, Stargate, Sweco), professional associations (Association of Estonian Engineers, Estonian Power and Heat Association, Estonian Association of Thermal Engineers), research organisations (TalTech, Estonian Environmental Research Centre, Estonian University of Life Sciences). Among the participants were representatives of public authorities and municipalities, including Tallinn City Government, Keila Municipality, and Narva City. The Ministry of Climate was represented by Pärtel Niitaru, Head of Industrial Emissions and Chemicals Policy, and the Competition Authority by Sanna Schwede.

A wide range of activities during the event were directly related to the CommitClimate project, including presentations, demonstrations, and interactive exhibits. A large display with the CommitClimate carbon calculator, as well as posters and flyers presenting the CommitClimate project objectives, key partners and online resources, provided visitors with the opportunity to test the tools, discuss ongoing research and explore practical applications of climate-related innovations in the energy sector.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> National Workshop in Sweden

### Technical information:

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

**Organizers:** Sustainable Business Hub

**Workshop type:** In-person

**Participants:** 34 municipality, organization and company representatives from Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Germany

### Event description:

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Sustainable Business Hub hosted its' third national workshop for the Commit Climate project, in collaboration with another Interreg Baltic Sea Region project GreenIndustrialArea. The event, titled "Nya vägar till minskade utsläpp" ("New Paths to Reduced Emissions"), was designed for municipalities across Sweden. The program aimed to explore innovative approaches to reducing emissions and fostering more sustainable municipalities and regions. Participants had the opportunity to engage with inspiring ideas, practical tools, and concrete examples that can drive meaningful change. The workshop concluded with a Q&A session.

Several presentations were featured, including:

- Toolbox for Climate-Neutral Industrial Areas
- CommitClimate Simulator
- Opportunities for Sustainable Collaboration Between Companies
- Municipal Approaches to Energy and Sustainability on Both Sides of the Strait

The workshop was divided into two main segments. The morning session began with an overview of the GreenIndustrialArea project, highlighting its two key deliverables: the Toolbox for Climate-Neutral Industrial Areas and the Certification of Green Industrial Areas. Additional presentations focused on strategies for sustainable development within industrial zones. Moreover, since the event coincided with Interreg Cooperation Day, a brief overview of the initiative was shared with participants.

The afternoon session was dedicated to the CommitClimate project, showcasing its' three-year journey and progress, including the development of an online platform, training modules, and simulation tools. Trelleborg Municipality shared insights into how municipalities on both sides of the strait address energy and sustainability challenges. Silva Herrmann, one of the CommitClimate project partners, presented a session on using the free CommitClimate simulator to develop future scenarios for sustainable energy systems.

The event concluded with a guided tour of Hyllie, illustrating its transformation from farmland into a densely populated, climate-focused district. To gather participants' insights and suggestions, a feedback form was distributed the following day. This input will help refine future workshops and make sure that the needs of stakeholders are met.

**Images:**





## 3<sup>rd</sup> National Workshop in Poland

### Technical information:

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

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

**Workshop type:** In-person & Online

**Participants:** 83 participants from various Polish municipalities, cities and associations

### Event description:

The event entitled “Cities and Municipalities in the Green Energy Transformation Process” took place on May 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in Jadwisin and brought together over 80 representatives of local governments, institutes, foundations, and associations from all over Poland. Its main theme was the role of cities and municipalities in the process of green energy transformation, with particular emphasis on the challenges and opportunities arising from European and national climate and energy policies. Opportunities and examples of using renewable energy sources (RES) and methods for increasing energy efficiency in heating systems and the construction sector were also addressed. Participants explored and discussed these issues during expert presentations, a panel discussion, and good practice sessions held in small-groups.

During the first day and the session dedicated to the challenges and pathways of European and local energy transformation, the speakers discussed the most important energy dilemmas facing the world and Europe up to 2050, the key elements of an effective and implementable local energy strategy, as well as the objectives, legal conditions, and planned timetable for designating accelerated renewable energy development areas.

The panel discussion on the potential of energy transformation in Polish local governments emphasised the crucial role LAs play in the transition to cleaner and more efficient energy sources.

Representatives of local governments shared their ongoing initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable, low-emission urban development. Participants agreed that LAs face many challenges in energy transformation process. Key issues highlighted included the need for comprehensive education of municipal employees at all levels of management, the importance of building local energy security through broad cooperation among stakeholders, efforts to break the monopoly of major energy providers, and the pursuit of inclusive solutions that deliver benefits to all parties involved.

The afternoon session focused on the use of RES, illustrated by good practices implemented in selected local governments, such as Green Energy City or Future Heat Plant. Then, the participants were invited to a tabletop session, where in smaller groups they could benefit from the experience of invited experts related to local actions supporting green transformation them.

The second day of the seminar was dedicated to new regulations and solutions in the field of energy efficiency. During the tabletop session, issues and good practices related to transformation pathways were discussed. The event was a wonderful opportunity to expand knowledge, establish new contacts, exchange experiences, and engage in inspiring discussions.

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