

# URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU



## Building Decarbonisation

### Orientation Paper

July 2025





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*\*\*\* The Pact of Amsterdam states that the Action Plan 'can be regarded as non-binding'. Therefore, the actions presented in this Action Plan are not compulsory. \*\*\*  
(chapter 4 clause 19.)*

Authors: Building Decarbonisation Partnership

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**Contact:** [urbanagenda@urban-initiative.eu](mailto:urbanagenda@urban-initiative.eu)

## Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name in English
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
DG CLIMA	European Commission's Directorate General for Climate Action
DG ENER	European Commission's Directorate General for Energy
DG GROW	European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DG REGIO	European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy
DG REFORM	European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support
DGUM	Directors General on Urban Matters
DV	German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development
EAA	Ex-Ante assessment
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
EUI	European Urban Initiative
GBCE	Green Building Council Espana
GFI	Green Finance Institute
IHRS	Integrated Home Renovation Service
INCASOL	Catalan Land Institute
JINAG	South Moravian Agency for Public Innovation
JRC	European Commission's Joint Research Center
MEHI	Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute
MIVAU	Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, Spain
UAEU	Urban Agenda for the EU
UDG	Urban Development Group
UATPG	Urban Agenda Technical Preparatory Group
WG	Working Group
WGL	Working Group Leader



# Definitions

**An Orientation Paper** is a document that narrows down the thematic scope of the Partnership and defines its objectives, taking into account the mandate (of the partner organisations), knowledge (available) and resources (available) of the members of the partnership.

## General Definitions

**Thematic focus** is the scope of the partnership presenting the areas of focus and list of topics partners will work on.

**Cross cutting issues** represent key aspects to be considered in the overall work of the Urban Agenda for the EU and its Partnerships. Each Partnership shall therefore consider the relevance of the Cross-cutting Issues (Gijon Agreement clause 5).

The Cross-cutting issues are:

- a) Promoting urban policy for the common good, inclusiveness, accessibility, security and equality.
- b) Enhancing integrated and innovative approaches, notably through financing and in correlation to the green, digital and just transitions.
- c) Supporting effective urban governance, participation, and co-creation.
- d) Promoting multi-level governance and cooperation across administrative boundaries.
- e) Harmonising measures at different spatial levels and implementing place-based policies and strategies.
- f) Supporting sound and strategic sustainable urban planning, and balanced territorial development.
- g) Contributing to the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III principles.

**Synergies** are thematic links and connections with other Thematic Partnerships and possible collaborations can be established with other Partnerships on common areas of interest/actions.

**Working group leader** is the coordinator of a specific working group with the responsibility of managing, coordinating, supervising the work of the other group members.

**Capacity for implementation** is the Partnership's ability to work on the selected topics of interest by having the skills/knowledge, the human and financial resources, and the political mandate needed to further explore and build actions on the identified areas of focus.

**Timeline** means a graphical representation of a period of time, on which important events are marked.

# Definitions specific for the topic of the partnership

**Whole Life Carbon.** Total greenhouse gas emissions (related to global warming potential) associated with a building throughout its entire life cycle – from material sourcing, manufacturing, and construction to use, demolition, transport, and waste disposal.

**Heatpump readiness.** Extent to which a building, heating system, or broader infrastructure is suitable and prepared for the installation and efficient operation of a heat pump.

**Energy community.** A group of individuals, households, businesses, or organizations that come together locally and regardless of their form of legal entity to collectively generate, consume, store, and/or share energy, typically from renewable sources, aiming at increasing energy independence.

**Decarbonisation.** Building Decarbonisation refers to activities and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. This includes:

- All type of buildings (new and existing building stock, as well as, public, private, residential and non-residential buildings)
- Covers the whole life cycle of the building (including energy consumption, heating and cooling, for construction/refurbishment, operation, maintenance and deconstruction of building)
- Activities should be in an integrated and place-based approach

**Collective renovation.** Multi-owners' condition (single house units, multi-family buildings, mixed-use) to differentiate it from conditions of individual buildings.

**Spatially-related buildings.** Refers to the spatial proximity between places where the energy is produced and where the demand is (peer-to-peer, exchange communities, etc).

**District/Neighbourhood approach.** 'Neighbourhood' is not a defined boundary, but it is related to the social involvement of communities/citizens/inhabitants and the type of buildings and activities. 'District' refers to an administrative / statistic area, therefore, it is not a spatial definition common for all EU countries. Its geographical boundaries are depended on the territorial characteristics and administrative organisation (it can include many small municipalities in rural areas gathered into a district, or just one neighbourhood within a big city).

**Place-based/ scales.** Taking into consideration the peculiarity of the territory (district, neighbourhood, etc) and the interested area, considering physical, socio-economic opportunities and criticalities.

**Sustainability (Taxonomy)** Sustainability in the building context is defined as the practice that reduces the negative impacts (and maximizes the positives ones) of buildings taking a triple approach where economic, social and environmental aspects are taken into consideration during their entire life cycle. The focus is placed on multiple environmental objectives, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, circular economy strategies, sustainable and efficient materials, sustainable use of water resources,



protection of ecosystems, also on objectives related to social equity, health and wellbeing, economic viability, etc.

In terms of EU taxonomy, there are up till now only six environmental objectives defined (which lack social and economic aspects): (1) climate change mitigation, (2) climate change adaptation, (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, (4) transition to a circular economy, (5) pollution prevention and control, and (6) protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. For an activity pursuing one or more of the six objectives to qualify as sustainable it cannot cause significant harm to any of the other Taxonomy objectives.

**Green budget.** A practice that integrates environmental and climate considerations into the budget process of governments. It involves using budgetary policy tools to help policymakers understand and address the environmental impacts of their financial decisions, ultimately aligning public spending with national and international environmental commitments<sup>1</sup>.

**Carbon credit.** A measurable reduction/removal of one metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (regulated or voluntary).

**One-stop shop.** One-stop-shops are single points of contact for the provision of streamlined information and assistance on technical, administrative and financial possibilities for the energy performance of buildings and renewable energy implementation, targeting all actors involved in building renovations, inter alia, homeowners and administrative, financial and economic actors, such as SMEs, including microenterprises. They are established at the local or regional level, and can offer services such as energy audits, advice on upgrades, financial support, and helping meet demand and offer of energy renovation services. One-stop-shops shall:

- Provide independent advice on the energy performance of buildings and may accompany renovation of single homes, housing units, or even integrated district renovation programmes.
- Offer dedicated services for vulnerable households, people affected by energy poverty and people in low-income households.
- The EPBD establishes that there shall be at least one OSS per 80 000 inhabitants along with other requirements (Art. 18).

**Integrated home renovation services (IHRS).** IHRS is a comprehensive offer of diverse services intended to cover the whole “customer journey” of the homeowners aiming to renovate their home. These services are offered by various stakeholders bundled into one single offer ranging from qualified professionals, permits and subsidies, construction works, provision of finance, etc.

**Local ecosystem/cluster of stakeholders.** It can be set starting from the original definition of local ecosystem (biology perspective), which refers to specific biological communities of interacting organisms and their physical environment within a limited geographic area. So, a local ecosystem of stakeholders could be defined as “the specific community of stakeholders interacting at municipal level in the activities related to the decarbonisation of buildings and that should be involved in decision-making processes”.

**Energy poverty.** Energy poverty means a household’s lack of access to essential energy services. Such services provide basic levels and decent standards of living and health, including adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting, and energy to power appliances. Energy poverty is caused by a combination of



factors, including non-affordability, insufficient disposable income, high energy expenditure and poor energy efficiency of home.

**Vulnerable citizens/households.** Vulnerable citizens/households mean households in energy poverty or households, including lower middle-income households, that are particularly exposed to high energy costs and that lack the means to renovate the building that they occupy.

**Local heating and cooling plans.** These are strategic and planning instruments aiming at deploying efficient heating and cooling infrastructures adapted to local conditions. As such, they should include potentialities, measures, financing needs and a roadmap. They are defined by article 25 of the Energy Efficiency Directive and required for municipalities with more than 45.000 inhabitants.

**Integrated renovation plans.** Are strategic and planning instruments aiming at increasing the renovation rate in its respective jurisdictions. National Building Renovation Plans are defined by Annex II of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which requires Member States to publish them before 2026. However, no requirements are set for local authorities. In this context, integrated has a threefold meaning:

- Spatial integration within its environment (urban or rural) and other buildings in a district approach
- Integration with other challenges beyond energy efficiency, including accessibility, comfort, indoor environmental quality, climate resilience, electromobility, maintenance, circularity, etc.
- Integration with other strategies both at local level (Heating and Cooling Plans, Climate City Contracts, Sustainable Energy and Climate Plans SECAPs, Local green budgets...) and upper level (regional, national or European policies).

**Renovation.** Renovation (or retrofit, or refurbishment) means improving an existing building and its quality including -at least- energy efficiency measures. Renovation can be partial or deep, and is a key element in strategies to decarbonise the building stock.

**Reconstruction.** Reconstruction means building on an existing site previously demolished.

**Regeneration.** Regeneration means improving an existing urban or rural environment with a district approach, including interventions on the public space, renovation of buildings and, where appropriate, social, environmental, and economic measures aimed at improving quality of life and territorial cohesion.

**Infrastructure.** Within the scope of this Partnership, infrastructure are the physical components of a grid that allows energy (heat and electricity) to be produced, transported and consumed by buildings or urban services (lighting, ITC, etc.). Even if they are managed by private operators, they have a collective use and thus, the physical components within buildings will be referred to as 'building facilities'.

**Building facilities.** Within the scope of this Partnership, building facilities are the physical components that allows energy to be produced, transported, interchanged with the grid and consumed within a building. They are of private use and belong to the building.



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Context

In 2016, the Pact of Amsterdam agreed upon by the EU Ministers Responsible for Urban Matters on 30 May 2016 established the Urban Agenda for the EU. The latter is an integrated, coordinated, and multilevel governance initiative pursuing to better enhance the urban dimension in European and national policies and to improve the quality of life in urban areas by focusing on concrete priority themes within dedicated Thematic Partnerships. 16 Partnerships have been defined so far on the following themes: - air quality - circular economy - climate adaptation - culture and cultural heritage - digital transition - energy transition - housing - inclusion of migrants and refugees - innovative and responsible public procurement - jobs and skills in the local economy - sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions - urban mobility - urban poverty - security in public spaces - greening cities - sustainable tourism – food – cities of equality.

Under the deal established by the Gijón Agreement in 2023, the Thematic Partnerships on Building Decarbonisation and Water Sensitive City were approved. The Building Decarbonisation partnership comes at a moment when the European Union has set very ambitious energy and climate goals, including the decarbonization of the building stock by 2050. For achieving these goals Member States are obliged to develop and submit National Energy and Climate Integrated Plans (NECPS) and Long-Term Renovation Strategies for improving the energy efficiency and retrofitting of the building stock. The recently adopted Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) also foresees for cities of minimum 45,000 inhabitants to develop local cooling and heating plans. Adding to this, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) also includes a mandatory percentage of renewable energy in these local heating and cooling plans.

This partnership proposes to address decarbonisation of building through a strategic integrated approach, going beyond individual buildings and encouraging the district/neighbourhood approach and make full use of the provisions in the revised directives. Local heating and cooling plans are among the important steps towards decarbonisation of buildings. This approach could be linked with development of district heating, the development of energy communities and energy sharing and explore the possibilities of the Electricity Market Design reform. Under the Gijón Agreement the UAEU Partnership on Building Decarbonisation is substantiated by a dedicated Ex-Ante Assessments (EAA). The Orientation Paper builds on the EAA for the following aspects:

- Identification of relevant topics and policy areas identified in the EAA
- Connections with EU policy initiatives and past or other UAEU partnerships
- Identification of working methods and arrangement.

## 1.2 Governance of the Partnership

The **Building Decarbonisation** partnership consists of 24 partners, including 1 member state, 3 regional authorities, 8 local authorities, 3 umbrella organisations, 5 DGs of the European Commission, and 4 other European stakeholders (for detailed information regarding the partners, see Table 1).

**Coordinators of the Partnership** (City of Mechelen and Green Building Council España) are responsible for the overall coordination of Partnership activities and are the main contact person for internal and external communication and outreach. They organise and chair Partnership meetings, organise and coordinate the work in between meetings, represent the Partnership in conferences, monitor and report on the Partnership's activities.

**Partners** are the key actors of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership and are fully engaged working on the agreed thematic areas and subtopics and contribute to the work needed for the definition of the Action Plan and its implementation, by bringing inputs, making the link to relevant activities or resources and participating in meetings.

The partnership established **4 working groups**, each linked to one of the thematic areas relevant to the Partnership:

- **Strategic Planning at Municipal Level**
- **Financing Building Decarbonisation**
- **Collaboration for Local Ecosystems**
- **Implementing Projects at District/Collective level**

Working groups will research, analyse, discuss and prepare solutions that can be transposed into draft actions for the Action Plan for their specific working area. Each working group will be facilitated and coordinated by 1-2 co-leaders.

The Partnership receives administrative and technical support from the **Thematic Partnership Officer (TPO)** and the **European Urban Initiative Secretariat**, which will work closely with the Partnership's Coordinators, working groups co-leaders and members of the Partnership. The activities of the Urban Agenda for the EU are coordinated through the **Directors General on Urban Matters (DGUM)** meetings, which will also provide feedback to the Partnership's Orientation Paper and Action Plan. The **Urban Development Group (UDG)** is an informal advisory body to the DGUM, where the deliverables and progress will be discussed before being presented to the DGUM.

### 1.2.1 Coordinator(-s) of the Partnership

The UAEU Partnership on Building Decarbonisation is coordinated by one urban authority and an EU organisation:

- City of Mechelen
- Green Building Council España

## 1.2.2 Members of the Partnership

The Building Decarbonisation partnership consists of 24 partners, including 1 member state, 3 regional authorities, 8 local authorities, 3 umbrella organisations, 5 DGs of the European Commission, and 4 other European stakeholders. The full list of members is presented below.

**Table 1. List of Building Decarbonisation Partnership Members**

Member States	Regional Authorities	Local Authorities	Umbrella Organisations	Other Stakeholders	EU Institutions
MIVAU (Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda) - ES	Department of Environment & Spatial Development Flanders - BE	City of Milan - IT	Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) - BE	Green Finance Institute (GFI) - ES	EC Joint Research Centre (JRC)
	South Moravian Agency for Public Innovations (JINAG) - CZ	City of Mechelen - BE	EUROCITIES - BE	Green Building Council España (GBCE) - ES	EC – Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.(DG GROW)
	Catalan Land Institute (INCASÒL) - ES	City of Vaasa - FI	German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development (DV) - DE	UNIVERCITIES - IT	EC – Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)
		City of Kladno - CZ		Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute - HU	EC – Directorate General for Energy
		City of Bytom - PL			
		City of Bergisch Gladbach - DE			
		City of Baja - HU			
		City of Cesis - LV			

## 1.2.3 Process and timeline of the Partnership in defining the Orientation Paper

The first six months of the Partnership, from January to June 2025, were dedicated to the Orientation Paper preparation, through a structured process of brainstorming and narrowing down the topics of



interest, starting with the analysis of the priority themes identified in the Building Decarbonisation Ex-Ante Assessment. In particular, the process followed **5 main phases**:

- **Phase 1: Brainstorming**
- **Phase 2: Analysing key material provided by the partnership members**
- **Phase 3: Narrowing down**
- **Phase 4: Selecting and clarifying the main topics per working group**
- **Phase 5: Choosing working group leaders and co-leaders**

### **Phase 1: Brainstorming**

The EAA was heavily used during the brainstorming phase. Each member of the Partnership was asked to express their specific topics of interests linked to the four key topics suggested in the EAA. During this exercise 93 topics of interests were clustered as follows:

- **EAA Topic 1:** District and neighbourhood approaches to renovation – **30 topics of interest**
- **EAA Topic 2:** Integrated renovation programmes of spatially related buildings – **20 topics of interest**
- **EAA Topic 3:** Future energy system design that supports decarbonisation of buildings – **22 topics of interest**
- **EAA Topic 4:** Increasing the cost effectiveness of renovations – **21 topics of interest**

### **Phase 2: Analysing key material provided by the partnership members**

During this phase, the TPO and Partnership Coordinators conducted an independent analysis to assess members' interests, drawing insights from three key sources:

- **Partner Application Forms** – submitted during the application process to join the Building Decarbonisation Partnership.
- **PowerPoint Presentations** – presented during the initial online meeting, where each partner introduced their expertise and interests related to Building Decarbonisation.
- **MIRO Exercise** – implemented during the brainstorming phase to capture additional insights.

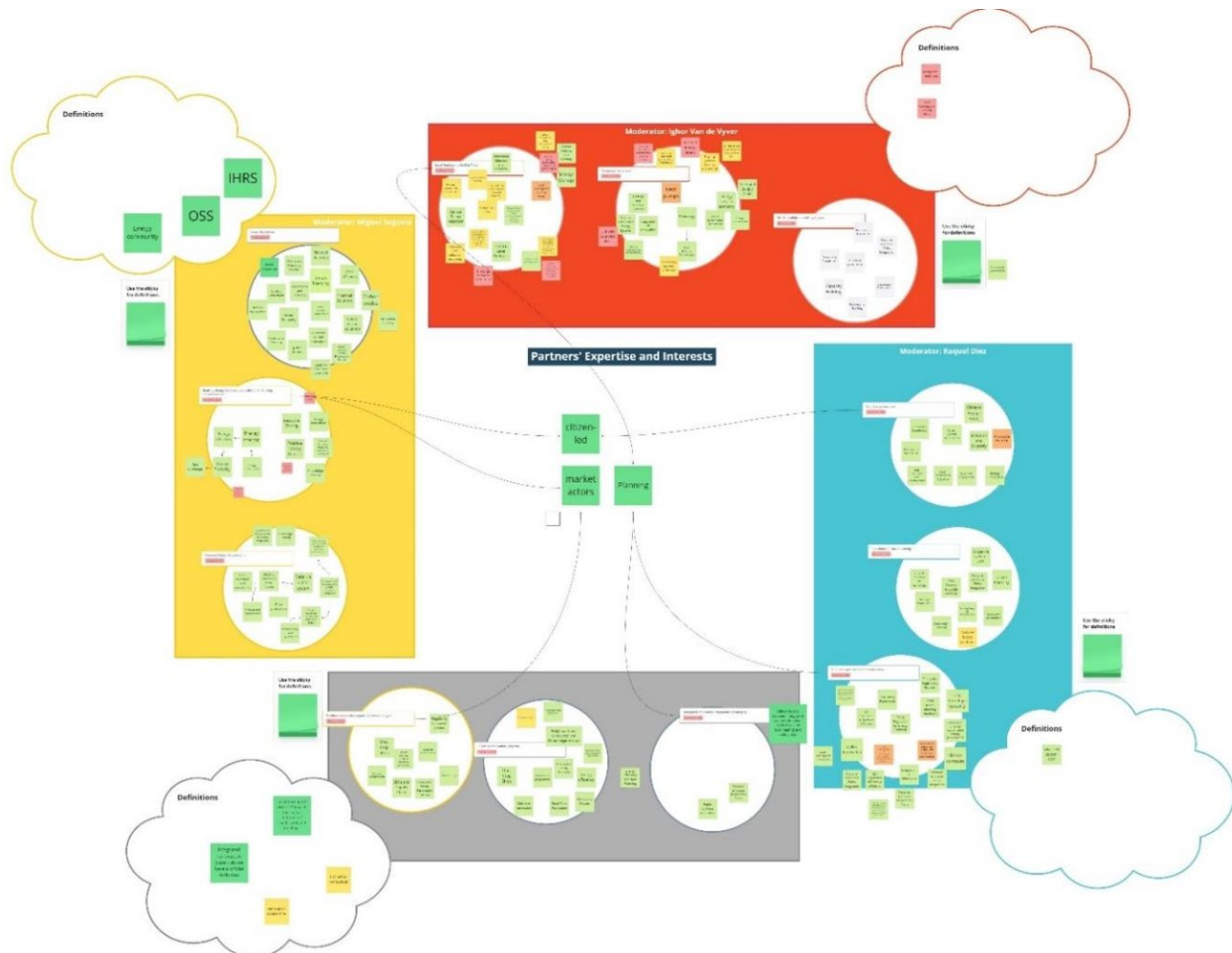
The analysis combined **both quantitative and qualitative approaches**. Quantitative data helped categorize members' expertise and interests based on the type of organization they represented (e.g., regional authorities, local authorities, member states, etc.).

The qualitative analysis revealed interesting insights on the topics mentioned the most by the partners. Topics were linked to: district heating and cooling plans, renovation programmes, capacity building and stakeholder engagement, innovative business models, financial incentives, public-private partnerships, multi-level governance, etc. This analysis shaped the key topics identified for the next phase.

### **Phase 3: Narrowing down**

After identifying key topics of interest and expertise during a co-creative session with all partnership members, these topics were systematically clustered. Utilising MIRO boards as a collaborative tool, participants were first invited to place the topics – added as sticky notes – into 12 designated circles, as illustrated above.

**Figure 1. Narrowing down topics of interest**



After the exercise and some refining from the Coordinators, the following 12 topics were identified:

- Local heating and cooling plans
- Heatpump readiness
- District heating and cooling projects
- People empowerment
- Energy communities
- Transition 3.0 - beyond energy
- Multi-level governance and cooperation
- Integrated renovation programmes (strategies)
- Collective renovation (projects)
- Business models that support renovation targets
- Common digital data systems
- Financial solutions.

#### **Phase 4: Selecting and clarifying the main topics per working group**

The 12 topics identified during the 3rd Phase were further clustered together into 4 main topics from the Coordinators and discussed with the Partnership members during the next online meeting. The final proposed list of topics per Working Group was as follows:

- Strategic Planning at Municipal Level
- Financing Building Decarbonisation
- Collaboration for Local Ecosystems
- Implementing Projects at District/Collective level

Each of these umbrella themes represents a distinct area of focus for the working groups within the Building Decarbonisation Thematic Partnership. The final effort of the partners was dedicated to describing more in detail each thematic area and related sub-topics; this process led to the definition of the "*Thematic Focus*" section of the present paper. Upon the introduction of each thematic area, partners were asked to vote using Mentimeter on the importance of each topic within the Partnership framework. After each voting a discussion took place to understand perspectives from the partners linked to each proposed topic.

#### **Phase 5: Choosing working group leaders and co-leaders**

Working Group Leaders and Co-Leader were identified via a separate process using EU Surveys. Members were asked to choose 1 or 2 Working Groups to be part of, as well as indicate whether they would like to contribute as a Leader/Co-Leader to one of the Working Groups. A more detailed overview of the Working Group composition is provided in Chapter 6.

During the entire process members of the Partnership met several times, both online and in-person:

- 1st Partnership Meeting, Online – 31st January 2025
- 2nd Partnership Meeting, Online – 18th February 2025
- 3rd Partnership Meeting, Online – 18th March 2025
- 4th Partnership Meeting, Online – 14th April 2025
- 5th Partnership Meeting, Mechelen, Belgium – 26-27 May 2025
- 6th Partnership Meeting, Online – 24th June 2025
- 7<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting, Online – 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2025

## 2 STRATEGIC GOALS AND VISION, GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The European Union has set very ambitious energy and climate goals, including the decarbonisation of the building stock by 2050. For achieving these goals Member States are obliged to develop and submit **National Energy and Climate Integrated Plans (NECPs)** and **National Building Renovation Plans (NBRPs)**. Under the revised **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)** local authorities must input/be consulted by Member States for their NBRPs for improving the energy efficiency and retrofitting of the building stock. Member States shall aim to reduce average residential energy use by 20-22% by 2035, and to renovate the 26% worst-performing non-residential buildings by 2033. As of 2028, all new public buildings owned by public authorities and as of 2030 all new buildings will be required to be Zero Energy Buildings (Article 7).

The recently adopted **Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)** requires cities with 45,000 inhabitants to develop local cooling and heating plans and introduces an obligation for renovating public buildings at an annual rate of 3%. Adding to this, the **Renewable Energy Directive (RED)** includes a mandatory percentage of renewable energy in local heating and cooling plans, and a **future electricity market design directive (FED)** to put in place the incentives for occupants, building owners, distribution system operators, and investors to deliver renovations of buildings and urban regeneration investment into flexible energy resources, from heat pumps, solar panels and storage to heating and cooling networks. To address these challenges, a multi-level governance approach to the decarbonisation of buildings with integrated renovation programmes under the EPBD and local heating and cooling plans under the EED and RED encourages a district, portfolio, and neighbourhood approach to make full use of the provisions in these recently recast directives. This approach will be linked with the future design of a decarbonised electricity grid, from the flexibility of energy use and development of district heating and cooling to the development of energy communities. To put in practice these objectives, it is important to develop programmes, strategies and plans at the local level.

The adoption of partnership actions **to test and demonstrate multilevel governance approaches**, integrating district and neighbourhood strategies with local heating and cooling plans, will be essential for decarbonizing Europe's building stock as the EU and Member States implement the EPBD, EED, RED, and FED with support from local authorities. **Based on this, the key strategic goals of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership are:**

- Fostering the uptake of new ways of collaborating with building owners, Distribution System Operators, and Member States to increase the use of district and neighbourhood approaches to renovation of spatially related blocks.
- With a focus on small and medium-sized cities, all cities in this TP will develop new ways of collaborating with nearby cities, other cities in their State, and across the EU to increase renovation of buildings through use of the EED and EIB.
- Focus on integrated renovation programmes with a balance of social and economic goals.

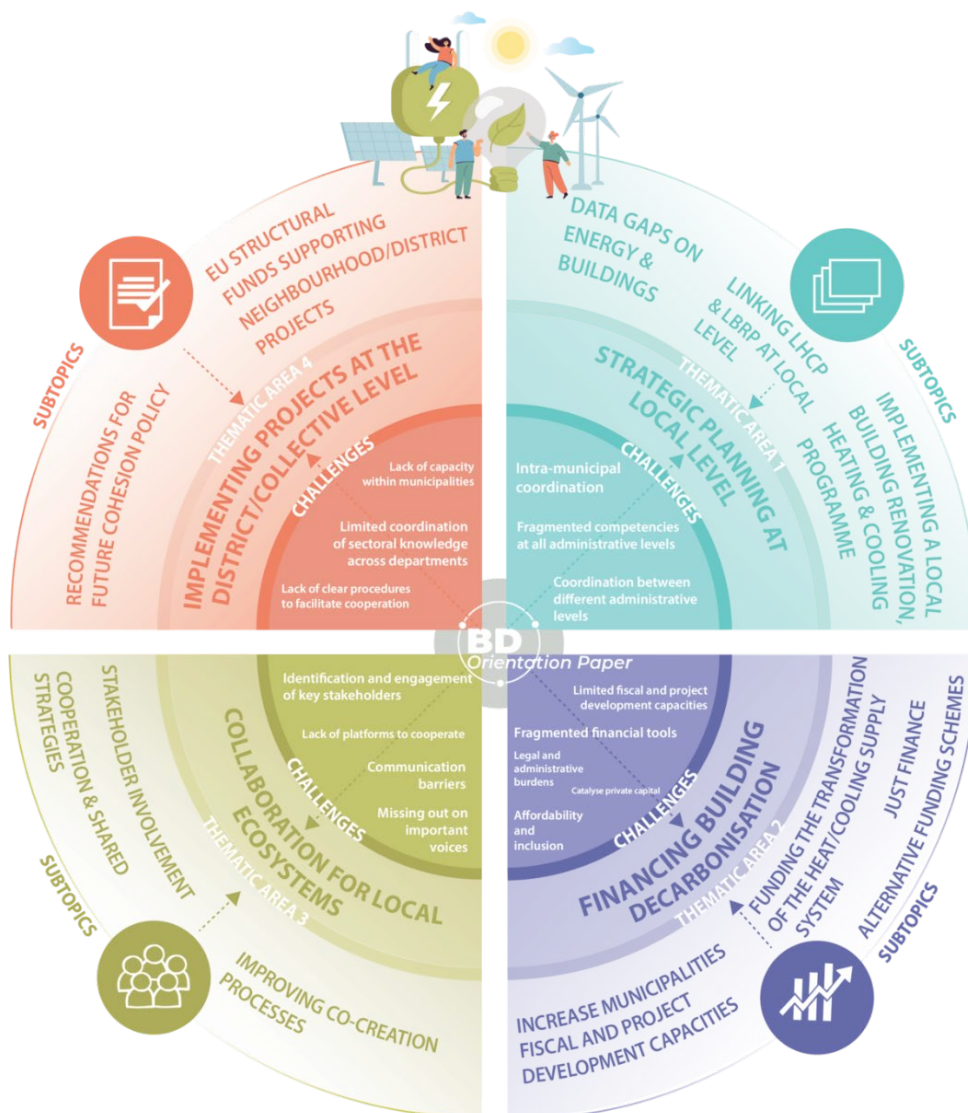


# 3 THEMATIC FOCUS

The Partnership is composed of four Working Groups, each of them working in one distinct yet interlinked topic in order to advance the deployment of integrated and inclusive building decarbonisation across cities. The four thematic priorities of these Working Groups are:

1. **Strategic Planning at Municipal Level**
2. **Financing Building Decarbonisation**
3. **Collaboration for Local Ecosystems**
4. **Implementing Projects at District/Collective Level**

**Figure 2. Thematic focus of the BD Partnership**



These themes reflect the shared ambition of the Partnership to support European cities in accelerating the transition towards the decarbonisation of the built environment. Table 2 provides a brief description on the scope of each Working Group.

**Table 2. List of Building Decarbonisation Topics**

Nº	Topic	Short Description	Indicated in the EAA
1	<b>Strategic Planning at Municipal Level</b>	This Working Group will support municipal strategic planning by mapping existing legislation and planning requirements and assessing how they interact across levels of government. It will then provide recommendations to improve regulatory coherence, helping local authorities drive building sector decarbonisation across Europe.	<b>Strongly</b>
2	<b>Financing Building Decarbonisation</b>	The Financing Building Decarbonisation Working Group develops and promotes strategies to fund city-wide building decarbonisation. It develops ways of improving municipal capacities for running integrated district approaches, aligns investments with urban regeneration and local energy strategies, explores the potentials of alternative financing methods (e.g. on-bill, carbon credits, land value capture), and strengthens municipal fiscal capacity (taking into consideration tools like green bonds and public-private partnerships). A key focus is on ensuring municipal resources for integrated renovation approaches, just and affordable finance, especially for vulnerable households, while considering energy price dynamics.	<b>Strongly</b>
3	<b>Collaboration for Local Ecosystems</b>	This group will explore how cities can lead building decarbonisation by working as part of dynamic local ecosystems. It will focus on stakeholder engagement, data-driven decision-making, and multi-level cooperation. Through system mapping, capacity building, and co-created strategies, the group aims to align local actions with EU climate goals, close policy gaps, and foster inclusive, place-based solutions that are practical, scalable, and rooted in local realities.	<b>Partially</b>
4	<b>Implementing Projects at District/Collective Level</b>	Integrated district approaches for the decarbonisation of buildings offer a number of strategic, technical, and economic advantages over building-by-building efforts. Experience in district/neighbourhood approaches exists from ongoing and previous EU funding periods. This	<b>Strongly</b>

		group will focus on how EU structural and cohesion funding can better support district and neighbourhood-level decarbonisation, especially in small and medium-sized cities. It is equally important to explore how integrated district approaches should be designed and implemented to ensure effective and efficient decarbonisation which includes developing appropriate working structures and instruments to engage building owners and other local stakeholders. Building on past experiences, the group will provide recommendations for future Cohesion Policy and explore ways to mainstream and scale up local projects that contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the built environment.	
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## 3.1 Explanation of topics and subtopics

### 3.1.1 Topic n.1 - Strategic Planning at Municipal Level

The European Union has set an ambitious package of energy and climate goals, which includes the objective of the decarbonisation of the whole building stock by 2050. There is a complex regulatory framework which establishes obligations at different administrative levels: from the Member States to the local authorities. Working Group 1 focuses on the implementation of these obligations at the local/municipal level, identifying gaps and potential synergies between the different regulatory instruments and its different scales (national, regional, local/municipal, district/neighbourhood, building). It supports the implementation of key obligations under the revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD). Particularly, EED Article 25.6, which requires municipalities with over 45,000 residents to develop Local Heating and Cooling Plans (LHCPs) and EPBD Article 3, which requires Member States to develop National Building Renovation Plans. Both plans must assess energy efficiency potential, prioritise vulnerable households, and align with the energy efficiency first principle. WG1 seeks to bridge regulatory gaps and foster synergies between LHCPs, NBRPs and other EU planning requirements, by promoting integrated local strategies. These strategies enable holistic urban planning that includes building renovation, heating and cooling infrastructure, social needs, and the exemplary role of public buildings (EED Article 6), while also addressing energy poverty in line with EED Article 24.

Considering all these, Working Group 1 will focus on supporting strategic planning at the municipal level, contributing to improve the capability of local authorities to manage the interaction of multiple regulations at different levels of government, which is a core area of the Partnership according to the EAA. Therefore, the main goal of Working Group 1 will be to map the existing legislation and planning requirements relevant to municipalities and assess how these frameworks interact across the different levels of governance. Following this analysis, the Working Group will also provide targeted feedback on how to improve regulatory coherence to reduce implementation gaps at the local level, empowering municipal authorities to become key drivers of the decarbonisation of the buildings sector throughout Europe. To support this objective, the Working Group will explore three closely connected subtopics reflecting the main challenges that municipalities face in implementing strategic planning for building decarbonisation.



The group explores the following **sub-topics**:

**Subtopic 1.1:** Filling the gaps and linking “Local Heating and Cooling Plans” (LHCP) and “Local Building Renovation Plans” (LBRP) at municipal scale. There is often limited integration between local heating and cooling plans and renovation strategies, which are often developed separately despite their strong interdependence, therefore developing synergies between the two of them will be the first focus of this WG.

**Subtopic 1.2:** Addressing the data gaps regarding energy and buildings at municipal (and district/neighbourhood) level. By working on this subtopic WG1 will address the issue of accessible, standardised and disaggregated data on buildings at the local level, which hampers effective planning and monitoring.

**Subtopic 1.3:** Making it happen: Implementing a “Local Building Renovation, Heating and Cooling Programme” (LBR&HCP) at district/neighborhood level, and Management and Funding (to be linked with the work being done in WG2, WG3 and WG4). This subtopic aims at targeting the disconnect between planning, management and funding, with municipalities frequently facing difficulties in linking their strategic objectives with available financial instruments, including emerging tools such as ETS2.

### 3.1.2 Topic n.2 - Financing Building Decarbonisation

The Financing Building Decarbonisation Working Group focuses on advancing financing (and to some extent funding, related with WG 4) strategies that support comprehensive, city-wide efforts to decarbonise buildings. Its approach emphasises aligning investment plans with integrated urban regeneration, building renovation, and sustainable heating and cooling, particularly through district-level solutions. Recognising that most financing levers lie beyond municipal control, targeting private building owners, households, and energy providers, the group aims to clarify both the direct roles municipalities can play and how they can indirectly support other actors in accessing financing tools. The work also considers broader financial conditions, such as taxation and CO<sub>2</sub> pricing, which influence local decarbonisation but fall outside municipal authority, especially in smaller and medium-sized cities. Additionally, the group seeks to ensure that financing instruments are accessible to these smaller municipalities and reflect the diversity of building ownership models and energy provider structures across different national contexts.

The group explores the following **sub-topics**:

**Subtopic 2.1: Increase municipalities' fiscal and project development capacities**, with dedicated funding for planning, managing and implementing integrated area-based decarbonisation. Besides making available EU, national and regional funding, the potential of tools like blended finance, public-private partnerships, green bonds, energy communities, and Community Land Housing, shall be assessed, focusing on their applicability and implementation at the local level.

**Subtopic 2.2: Funding for energy efficient refurbishment and transformation of the heat / cooling supply system.** Promoting subsidised loans and grants to support energy-efficient building upgrades and the greening of heating and cooling systems, making investments viable and socially acceptable. The focus will be on how these schemes can indirectly mobilise stakeholders in integrated

area-based decarbonisation, with attention to leveraging national, regional, and municipal funding, alongside EU structural funds, EIB loans, and other EU instruments.

**Subtopic 2.3: Ensuring just finance**, addressing affordability challenges and supporting vulnerable households while considering the gas-electricity price ratio and carbon credit prices to ensure equitable energy transitions and a proper deployment of the Social Climate Fund.

**Subtopic 2.4: Alternative financing schemes** such as on-bill, on-tax, and property-linked financing, carbon credits, energy performance contracting, land value capture, and demand aggregation, will be assessed based on their direct or indirect usability by municipalities. The focus will be on instruments that municipalities can actively use or support, with broader framework conditions (e.g., taxation, carbon pricing) mentioned only where changes could enhance integrated decarbonisation strategies.

### 3.1.3 Topic n.3 - Collaboration for Local Ecosystems

The European Union has set an ambitious package of energy and climate targets for the decarbonization of the entire building stock by 2050. It is a goal that aims to integrate the mandate “to develop Local Heating and Cooling Plans (LHCP), at least in municipalities with a total population of more than 45,000 inhabitants”, into a Local building renovation plan that also includes urban regeneration. This is a task to be carried out in a local space that requires a series of conditions to be able to carry it out. Decarbonizing the built environment requires cities to act as part of local ecosystems comprising public institutions, businesses, civil society, and academia. These actors must collaborate effectively together to enable systemic and context-specific decarbonization.

Therefore, the group explores the following **sub-topics**:

**Subtopic 3.1: Involvement of Stakeholders.** It is important to work in a multidisciplinary way in the ecosystem to guarantee the best results (including public and private entities, associations, and specialists). The work carried out within this subtopic will align in an agile and efficient way the problems to be solved and the solutions to be implemented. In this sense, it will be necessary to create System Mapping to identify the most important stakeholders in the field, and to identify the main knowledge and skills of the environment. By identifying key stakeholders through system mapping and engaging relevant actors (public bodies, businesses, associations, academia and experts) we aim at enabling an agile, targeted responses and the alignment of skills and solutions with real-world challenges.

**Subtopic 3.2: Improving co-creation processes.** Data and knowledge are key enablers for effective climate action at the local level. This subtopic focuses on improving access to relevant data, building local capacity, and strengthening cooperation between municipalities, academia, and businesses. The goal is to support evidence-based decisions, practical solutions, and continuous learning in building decarbonisation. This task will be worked in coordination with subtopic 1.2.

**Subtopic 3.3: Cooperation and shared strategies.** Insights from local ecosystems reveal practical gaps between EU/national policies and implementation on the ground. This subtopic identifies barriers, needs, and mismatches at the city level, providing feedback to improve multi-level governance and ensure that strategies are aligned with local realities and capacities. Building decarbonisation requires coordinated action across sectors and governance levels. This subtopic promotes the development of

shared strategies through cooperation between local authorities, private actors, and communities. The aim is to align goals, pool resources, and foster long-term partnerships for effective and scalable climate solutions. Not only local level, but also in cooperation with other municipalities and regions. The partners will look into existing initiatives and European Projects supporting such collaborations such as the Mission for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities, and Horizon-funded EU projects.

### 3.1.4 Topic n.4 - Implementing Projects at District/Collective Level

Integrated district approaches for the decarbonisation of buildings offer a number of strategic, technical, and economic advantages over building-by-building efforts. These approaches treat groups of buildings or neighbourhoods as a system rather than isolated units and offer various benefits. First, district energy systems, like heating and cooling networks, improve system-level energy efficiency by centralising supply, balancing loads across multiple buildings, and enabling better use of storage and renewables such as solar, thermal, geothermal and biomass. Shared infrastructures reduce upfront costs and support economies of scale, making upgrades, retrofitting and smart technology deployment more affordable through bulk procurement and coordinated investment. These systems also promote equity by allowing inclusive access to improvements and better mobilisation of diverse building owners. On a regulatory level, they facilitate streamlined governance, making it easier to meet climate goals, align stakeholders, and achieve greater overall emissions reductions, including the creation of net-zero districts. Experience in district/neighbourhood approaches exists from ongoing and previous EU funding periods. A wider mainstreaming of district/neighbourhood approaches through EU funding could create a bigger leverage effect both on new methods, experiences and contribution of the EU goal to reduce the carbonisation of buildings (incl. district heating/cooling), in particular for small and medium-sized cities.

Therefore, the group explores the following **subtopics**:

**Subtopic 4.1:** Recommendations for future Cohesion Policy based on the needs of local authorities and providing concrete examples from the local level.

**Subtopic 4.2:** Exploring how EU structural funding can support neighbourhood/district projects. Reflect and analyse how the EBP, EED and other EU legislation (e.g. taxonomy) are able to support integrated district approaches or impeding them and develop recommendations for adapting the regulatory framework.

## 3.2 What are the specific problems to be addressed?

This section will focus on the specific problems that each Working Group has identified and the barriers they aim to overcome in enabling effective, city-wide building decarbonisation. Table 3 explains this in more detail:



**Table 3. Problems to be addressed by each Working Group**

<b>WG1: Strategic Planning at Municipal Level</b>	<p>While EED article 25.6 sets the obligation to "<i>prepare Local Heating and Cooling Plans (LHCP)</i>" at municipal level (in principle, only in cities with more than 45 000 inhabitants), article 3 of EPBD establishes the obligation to develop "<i>a National Building Renovation Plan</i>" at national level. Considering that building renovation will finally take place in the local scale, including those municipal and public buildings subject of the obligation set in EED article 6 and having to prioritize energy poverty and deprived neighborhoods according to EED article 24, this WG aims to find links and synergies at municipal scale between "Local Heating and Cooling Plans" (LHCP) and "Local Building Renovation Plans" (LBRP).</p> <p>After the completion of a "Local Building Renovation, Heating and Cooling Plans" (LBR&amp;HCP) at municipal scale, it is time for its implementation through a Programme, which will be normally take place in a sequence according to a comprehensive roadmap: in spatial terms, divided into different parts (district/neighborhood level), and, temporarily, in a sequence of stages. After planning, the implementation phase will require the deployment of a Programme with sufficient management capacities and funding instruments.</p> <p>Moreover, the development of any heating, cooling and building renovation planning requires the use of data (energy consumption, building characteristics, family income, etc.) disaggregated at building or neighbourhood level, and conveniently integrated in a local/municipal database. In many cases, there are constraints or difficulties to access this information, therefore, this WG will look into data gaps regarding energy and buildings at municipal level.</p>
<b>WG2: Financing Building Decarbonisation</b>	<p>This WG addresses key challenges faced by municipalities in scaling up building decarbonisation. These include limited fiscal and project development capacities, fragmented financial tools, and legal and administrative burdens. The WG focuses on improving access to funding especially for smaller cities and diverse building and energy supplier ownership models. It will also explore ways on how to allocate enough public funding to be able to catalyse private capital especially in the form of blended mixed vehicles. It also promotes innovative schemes and just transition measures to ensure affordability and inclusion.</p>
<b>WG3: Collaboration for Local Ecosystems</b>	<p>WG3 is addressing a multitude of interconnected challenges that are a barrier to cooperation among stakeholders working towards the decarbonisation of the built environment. A key issue is the difficulty in identifying and engaging the key relevant stakeholders (e.g. universities, companies, citizens groups, municipalities) within a Quadruple helix model. Stakeholders often have diverse skills, needs and interests and there is a lack of platforms to facilitate cooperation, shared ownership and coordinated action, therefore, their effective organisation at both the city and district levels, is essential for the successful implementation of projects. Furthermore, the presence of different ownership constellations for buildings requires continuous coordination, highlighting the need for dedicated energy or district coordinators, or energy managers, to manage these complexities.</p>



	<p>In addition to this, municipalities, especially smaller ones, face problems in terms of resources and capabilities, including staff shortages and insufficient time to coordinate all different stakeholders within their ecosystems. This lack of resources and capacities to meaningfully involve stakeholders in building decarbonisation efforts leads to projects carried in silos. Together these challenges limit the creation of inclusive local ecosystems which are capable of driving integrated energy solutions at district level.</p>
<b>WG4: Implementing Projects at District/Collective Level</b>	<p>One of the main challenges that this Working Group is addressing is the lack of capacity within municipalities to develop and technically implement integrated district approaches, as well as to coordinate sectoral knowledge across departments. Securing commitment and collaboration from different municipal departments often proves difficult, highlighting the need for effective internal coordination and management structures. To successfully design and implement area-based decarbonisation strategies, municipalities require not only long-term technical, legal, and financial support, but also strong working structures and procedures that facilitate cross-departmental cooperation.</p> <p>The Working Group will explore and showcase best practice examples from across the EU, where municipalities have successfully overcome these barriers and implemented integrated district-level projects. These examples can offer valuable guidance on how to structure and manage such approaches effectively, and how to mobilise the necessary resources and institutional support.</p>

### 3.3 What is the relevance to the three pillars?

The UAEU Partnerships are focused on carrying out work whose outcomes will have an important role in improving one of the three pillars: Better Funding, Better Regulation and Better knowledge. Table 4 explains how each of the Thematic Areas contribute to the three pillars.

**Table 4. Relevance to the three pillars per Working Group**

<b>WG1: Strategic Planning at Municipal Level</b>	<p><b>Better Regulation.</b> Filling the gaps and linking “Local Heating and Cooling Plans” (LHCP) and “Local Building Renovation Plans” (LBRP) at municipal scale will improve regulatory coherence and reduce administrative burden, as mandated by the EED.</p> <p><b>Better Funding.</b> Implementing a “Local Building Renovation, Heating and Cooling Programme” (LBR&amp;HCP) at district/neighborhood level includes identifying funding channels from the EU (e.g. Recovery and Resilience Facility, Social Climate Fund, ETS2 revenues), but also the establishment of local delivery structures like One-Stop-Shops and participatory processes.</p> <p><b>Better Knowledge.</b> Addressing the data gaps regarding energy and buildings at municipal (and district/neighborhood) level will help to better use tools and standards such as the Building Logbook, the Energy Performance Certificates databases, and JRC-supported observatories like the EU Building Stock Observatory.</p>
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<b>WG2: Financing Building Decarbonisation</b>	<p><b>Better Regulation.</b> Most of the innovative financing structures to be deployed, need some degree of enabling local and national regulatory changes.</p> <p><b>Better Funding.</b> Funding needs to have a multiplying effect on financing. We need to explore ways how to make funding more efficient bringing in other financial resources from the market. This requires a broad and strategic discussion about which types of investments can truly benefit from alternative financing mechanisms and where such approaches can provide added value. It is important to help cities understand not only the potential opportunities of blended or private financing but also its limitations.</p> <p><b>Better Knowledge.</b> Local authorities are to become the engine and backbone of building decarbonisation projects at district level and ambitious urban regeneration plans and accordingly will need to be massively helped with specialised financial acumen and technical capacitation.</p>
<b>WG3: Collaboration for Local Ecosystems</b>	<p><b>Better Regulation.</b> The information collected on the different stakeholders at different levels, will help regulators to make better policies. Data and knowledge-driven decision-making tools will support cities to have evidence for the implementation of policies and regulations towards decarbonisation. Moreover, there will be an opportunity to identify new regulations or adjust existing ones, to implement better strategies.</p> <p><b>Better Funding.</b> Collaboration within local ecosystems strengthens access to funding for specific tools like one-stop shops, information campaigns for renovation, triggering national and European funding (e.g. by EIB, KfW) down to investment projects. By aligning local actors around common goals, it enhances the credibility, innovation, and impact of proposals, making them more attractive to funders and better positioned for long-term success.</p> <p><b>Better Knowledge.</b> It also contributes to better knowledge by enabling cities and municipalities to better understand and classify their local systems, leading to more informed decision-making. It fosters shared data and documentation, increases transparency, and supports coordinated action across scales. This joint understanding allows for more targeted and efficient decarbonization efforts.</p>
<b>WG4: Implementing Projects at District/Collective Level</b>	<p><b>Better Regulation.</b> The WG will contribute with suggestions for regulations on (EU) level but also Operational Programmes and/or National ERDF envelopes. Managing Authorities could use the recommendations as a source of inspiration when drafting the Terms of References and Criteria for their own national/regional regulations for ERDF calls for integrated urban approaches. Simultaneously, we will reflect and analyse how the EBPd, EED and other EU legislation (e.g. taxonomy) are able to support integrated district approaches or impeding them and develop recommendations for adapting the regulatory framework.</p> <p><b>Better Funding.</b> By contributing to a targeted approach to support neighbourhood/district approaches via a dedicated long-term funding tool, the room for innovative approaches in funding for regions and municipalities with less experience will be improved. Improved funding concepts of national or regional</p>



Operational Programmes can increase access to funding for cities receiving EU funds. Recommending ways to combine EU funding with national or regional funding mechanisms.

**Better Knowledge.** Knowledge exchange for all levels who are involved in the implementation of e.g. ERDF funding (EU, national, regional, local) with a collection of best practices, experiences on different methodologies on funding as well as setting up and running district approaches. At the same time, the practises could also serve as a blueprint, or source of inspiration for national funding programmes.

## 3.4 Expected impact or outputs?

This section describes the expected output per each subtopic identified within the different Working Groups.

**Table 5. Expected outputs per Working Group**

<b>WG1: Strategic Planning at Municipal Level</b>	<p><b>Subtopic 1.1: Filling the gaps and linking “Local Heating and Cooling Plans” (LHCP) and “Local Building Renovation Plans” (LBRP) at municipal scale.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Mapping of regulations and identification of gaps.</li> <li>• <b>Output 2:</b> Guidelines and recommendations for municipalities to make integrated planning at city scale linking LHCP and LBRP, including a roadmap for its development at neighborhood level. (Link with WG 4).</li> <li>• <b>Output 3:</b> Dissemination of the Guidelines: Workshops at EU/national level (within the EPBD Concerted Action group) and at national/local level (CEMR, Eurocities).</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 1.2: Addressing the data gaps regarding energy and buildings at municipal (and district/neighborhood) level.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Mapping data needs and gaps. Identification of data availability, integrating different sources into a local/municipal buildings and energy database: energy consumption, building information from Cadastre, data from the Building Passport/ Building logbook (link with WG 3), family income (energy poverty), EED article 6 inventory (public buildings), etc.</li> <li>• <b>Output 2:</b> Identification of actions required at EU/national/municipal level to address the data gaps.</li> <li>• <b>Output 3:</b> Implementation of actions required at EU/national/municipal level to address the data gaps.</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 1.3: Making it happens: Implementing a “Local Building Renovation, Heating and Cooling Programme” (LBR&amp;HCP) at district/neighborhood level: Management and Funding.</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Database with a collection of best practices to develop LBR&amp;HCP plans at district/neighborhood level: Management (One-Stop-Shops, Public Participation, etc.) and Funding (Financial instruments, ETS2 -Emissions Trading System- impacts (expert input needed)). (Related with WG 4).</li> <li>• <b>Output 2:</b> Guidelines for municipalities for the implementation of a "Local Building Renovation, Heating and Cooling Programme" (LBR&amp;HCP) at district/neighborhood level. (Related with WG 4).</li> </ul>
<b>WG2: Financing Building Decarbonisation</b>	<p><b>Subtopic 2.1: Increase municipal fiscal capacities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Online Toolbox for municipalities to learn from different case studies on how they financed their projects. It will include examples, processes, resources, lessons learned, and contacts.</li> <li>• <b>Output 2:</b> Recommendations for EU and national/regional level on how to create funding schemes that directly support the municipalities in their capacities to run integrated district decarbonisation approaches, especially targeted to the next structural funding period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 2.2: Funding for energy efficient refurbishment and transformation of the heat / cooling supply system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Mapping and analyses of EU, national, regional and local funding programmes and how they can be used for an integrated district decarbonisation approach;</li> <li>• <b>Output 2:</b> Recommendations on how to bundle different funding schemes and alternative financing Schemes in an integrated district decarbonisation strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 2.3: Just finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> White Paper – Financial gaps in all project development phases with a focus on 'Affordable Housing'.</li> </ul>
<b>WG3: Collaboration for Local Ecosystems</b>	<p><b>Subtopic 3.1. Involvement of Stakeholders.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Guidelines for Stakeholders' mapping, management and involvement plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 3.2: Improving co-creation processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Good practices platform in the Urban Agenda WEB. Directly focusing on decarbonization of the buildings.</li> <li>• <b>Output 2:</b> Education path for the local ecosystem. Analysis and identification of the skills and the workforce needed (to implement the strategy/plan of the city for building decarbonization).</li> <li>• <b>Output 3:</b> Webinars</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 3.3. Cooperation and shared strategies</b></p>



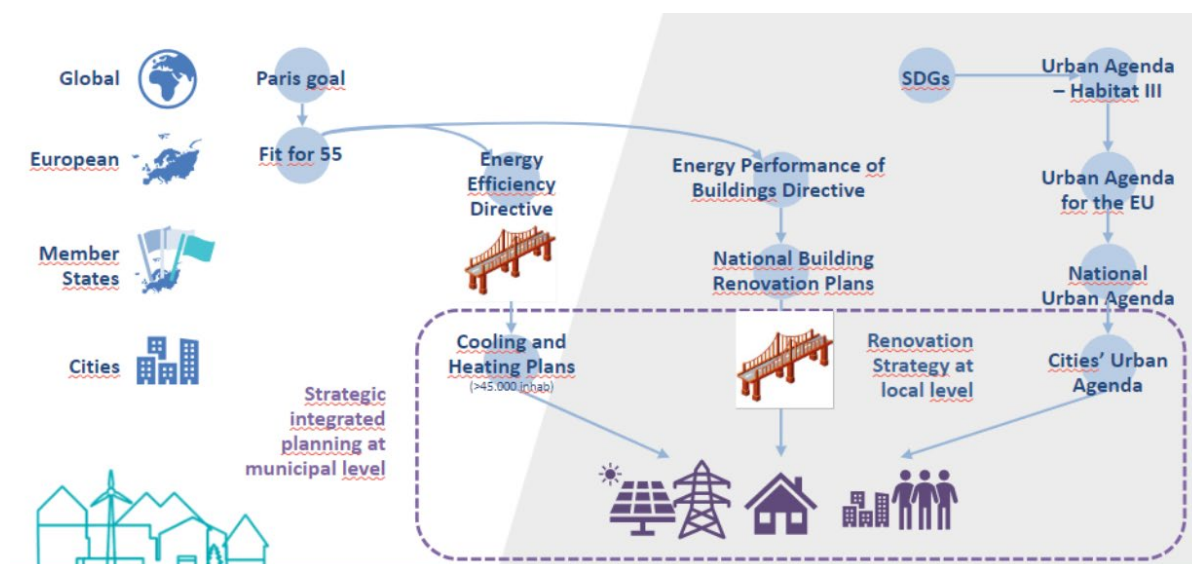
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Guidelines for multidepartment and multistakeholder strategy co-creation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Break silos between the different departments of local and regional authorities.</li> <li>○ Gaps identification between the different levels of government</li> <li>○ Identification of local regulations needed to implement the strategy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>WG4: Implementing Projects at District/Collective Level</b>	<p><b>Subtopic 4.1: How can EU structural funding support neighbourhood/district projects?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Stocktaking by collecting and analysing best practices on funding instruments from ERDF/national programmes to support the integrated approaches for the decarbonisation of neighbourhoods -&gt; This would lead to a toolbox/handbook supporting local authorities in the implementation of neighbourhood/district projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Subtopic 4.2: Recommendations for future Cohesion Policy (needs of local authorities, guidance, examples)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1:</b> Guidance and Recommendations, on how to include integrated district approaches into the new regulation and operational programmes.</li> </ul>

## 3.5 Relevance for EU policy goals

The thematic areas proposed by the Building Decarbonisation Partnership directly support the EU's climate and energy policy goals, particularly the target of full decarbonisation of the building stock by 2050 as outlined in the EU Climate Law, Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). According to Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 local governments are called to play an important role. There is a complex regulatory framework which establishes obligations at different administrative levels: from the Member States to the local authorities. Working Group 1 focus on strategic planning at the municipal level is critical for the implementation of such obligations at the local/municipal level. It will provide further recommendations to EU directives and regulations by identifying gaps and potential synergies between the different regulatory instruments and its different scales (national, regional, local/municipal, district/neighbourhood, building) and specifically focusing on strengthening strategic planning at the municipal level to ensure coherent, integrated approaches that translate EU ambitions into practical, impactful local actions.



**Figure 3. Strategic integrated planning at municipal level**



Meanwhile, Working Group 2 addresses the need to mobilise sustainable finance, which is central to the Renovation Wave and Green Deal ambitions. It recognises that municipalities are often constrained by limited budgets and administrative capacity, making coordinated efforts between the public sector and market players essential to translate policy into investable projects and scale up financing mechanisms.

Working Groups 3 and 4 reinforce the EU policy shift toward integrated, place-based approaches that value ecosystem services, circularity, and collective action. WG3 strengthens synergies and offers identification tools for stakeholders at the city level aligning with the EU's objectives on citizen-led energy initiatives as reflected in the forthcoming Citizens Energy Package. WG4 focus on district-level implementation helps operationalise EU directives such as the EPBD, EED, and Renewable Energy Directive (RED) through scalable, community-focused solutions. Together, these thematic areas enable a comprehensive, localised, and cross-sectoral approach to achieving EU climate neutrality.

# 4 SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

## 4.1 For each topic describe the links with other partnership (table)

The Building Decarbonisation Thematic Area is deeply interconnected with many other Thematic Areas, reflecting how the building decarbonisation system is embedded within and influenced by broader urban, regional, national, and international systems. Transitioning to a decarbonised built environment requires coordinated action across sectors such as energy, transport, finance, and governance. It also necessitates alignment with policy frameworks, supply chains, and innovation ecosystems that transcend geographic and administrative boundaries. Existing identified gaps and recommendations were found in previous thematic partnerships that need to be addressed in this partnership include:

- Interaction of local authorities' urban regeneration and energy renovation strategies with Member State climate, urban policy, and energy policy was limited.
- One-stop-shop technical assistance lacks the capacity and knowledge to promote costeffective district and neighbourhood solutions to residents and businesses

Many of these topics have already dedicated UAEU Thematic Partnerships, the outputs of which this new UAEU TP on Building Decarbonisation should capitalise and further advance. In particular, the following synergies with other Thematic Partnerships could be explored.

**Table 6. Synergies between Building Decarbonisation TP and other UAEU Thematic Partnerships**

Other UAEU Partnerships	Building Decarbonisation Partnership – Possible Synergies
1. <b>Energy Transition</b>	Synergies with Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No 1. Creation of 'financing for district energy' task group</li> <li>• No 2. Maximising use of waste heat in cities</li> <li>• No 3. Guidance on energy masterplanning for cities</li> <li>• No 4. 'Deployment desks' for city retrofitting</li> <li>• No 5. Closer cooperation with EU bodies to promote energy</li> </ul>
2. <b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	Synergies with Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No 1. Analysis of national multilevel urban development and planning regulations with focus on climate adaptation</li> </ul>
3. <b>Affordable Housing</b>	Synergies with Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No 11. Recommendations on EU funding of affordable housing</li> </ul>
4. <b>Greening Cities</b>	Synergies with Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No 1. Need for Green: Methodology for quantifying the demand for green infrastructure at local level</li> </ul>

5. <b>Circular Economy</b>	<a href="#">Guide for cities</a> on how to re-use abandoned and underused spaces and buildings to facilitate urban regeneration and the circular re-use of underutilised buildings and spaces.
6. <b>Public Procurement</b>	Synergies with Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No 6. Cooperation Centres for innovative and responsible public procurement</li> </ul>
7. <b>Cities of Equality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared focus on co-governance models and participatory frameworks, such as energy communities and Just Transition approaches</li> </ul>
8. <b>Water Sensitive City</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common ground on financing mechanisms and the technical integration of water and energy systems (e.g., heat extraction from water)</li> <li>• Explore additional synergies since both partnerships have started at the same time, therefore, several Action Plans could also be aligned.</li> </ul>



# 5 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

## 5.1 How are the first ideas of the Orientation Paper taking in account the cross-cutting issues?

The complexity of urban challenges requires integrating different policy aspects to avoid contradictory consequences and make interventions in Urban Areas more effective (Pact of Amsterdam clause 12). Cross-cutting Issues represent key aspects to be considered in the overall work of the Urban Agenda for the EU and its Partnerships. Each Partnership shall therefore consider the relevance of the Cross-cutting Issues (Gijon Agreement clause 5). Table 7 shows the relevance of cross-cutting issues to the selected thematic areas of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership.

**Table 7. Relevance of cross-cutting issues to the selected thematic areas of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership**

Cross-Cutting Issues	Building Decarbonisation – Thematic Areas			
	Strategic Planning at Municipal Level	Financing Building Decarbonisation	Collaboration for Local Ecosystems	Implementing Project at District Level
<b>Promoting urban policy for the common good, inclusiveness, accessibility, security and equality.</b>	Decarbonization policies on the building stock should pay particular attention to deprived neighbourhood and vulnerable households.		The involvement of all stakeholders at local level, including social agents, will ensure this important issue in the LBRP	
<b>Enhancing integrated and innovative approaches, notably through financing and in correlation to the green, digital and just transitions.</b>	The proposed planning instruments will be based on a strong integrated approach, building bridges between the different sectoral approaches.	By addressing the financial and administrative constraints faced by municipalities and promoting coordinated action among public and private actors, WG2 enables the development of investable, scalable solutions into local building decarbonisation strategies.		By promoting district-level decarbonisation models that leverage EU structural funding to deliver scalable, inclusive, and cost-effective solutions.
<b>Supporting effective urban governance,</b>	Public consultation and participation is a key element for		Supporting urban governance participation and co-	



<b>participation, and co-creation.</b>	developing strategic integrated planning.		creation is in the core of WG3 by enabling diverse local actors to actively shape their shared environment and involve them in decision-making processes. Equally, this WG promotes intra-municipal and regional coordination to align objectives and strategies (social, environmental and economic) in relation to NBRP and LHCP requirements.	
<b>Promoting multi-level governance and cooperation across administrative boundaries.</b>	Strategic planning at municipal level will assure the coordination of national and regional decarbonization objectives and the local scale.		Strengthening multilevel governance requires close collaboration with local ecosystems to ensure decisions reflect regional expertise and shared goals with all the stakeholders involved. Cross-level cooperation enables effective use of resources and data and knowledge within local ecosystems, supporting sustainable and inclusive development.	
<b>Harmonising measures at different spatial levels and implementing place-based policies and strategies.</b>	Strategic planning at municipal level should be further developed at neighbourhood or district level, with a clear place-based approach.		The collaboration with local ecosystems is key to work with different spatial levels in relation to the sectioning of the municipality, while	By focusing on district-level approaches that integrate technical, financial, and governance measures, the WG helps harmonise decarbonisation efforts across buildings, neighbourhoods/districts



			ensuring a place-based approach.	enabling the implementation of place-based strategies.
<b>Supporting sound and strategic sustainable urban planning, and balanced territorial development.</b>	The idea is to link compulsory Local Heating and Cooling Plans with other planning instruments promoting sustainable urban development, like Local Renovation Strategies, but also to urban planning.		Strategic and sustainable urban planning is most effective when developed in collaboration with local ecosystems, ensuring that territorial development is balanced, place-based, and rooted in local needs and capacities.	
<b>Contributing to the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III principles.</b>		The focus on inclusive and context-sensitive financing mechanisms contributes to the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, and Habitat III principles by promoting sustainable, climate-resilient urban development that leaves no one behind and empowers local authorities to drive transformative change.	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development also on local level. Mainly 17 <sup>th</sup> SDG is related to this topic, it includes for example enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development, enhancing availability of reliable data and encouraging effective partnerships etc.	



# 6 WORKING METHODS

## 6.1 Working groups

The Building Decarbonisation Partnership identified 4 main Thematic Areas that will be addressed by the Working Groups working in these topics. Each of the four themes (Strategic Planning at Municipal Level, Financing Building Decarbonisation, Collaboration for Local Ecosystems, Implementing Projects at District Level) represents a distinct area of focus for the working groups within Partnership, allowing them to dive deep into specific issues and design targeted solutions. Each working group will research, analyse, discuss and design solutions that can be transposed into draft actions for the Action Plan for the specific working area. The Working Group composition is as follows:

**Table 8. Working Group composition**

<b>Strategic Planning at Municipal Level</b>	<b>Financing Building Decarbonisation</b>	<b>Collaboration for Local Ecosystems</b>	<b>Implementing Projects at District Level</b>
<b>Leader/Co-leader</b> MIVAU CEMR	<b>Leader/Co-leader</b> GFI City of Mechelen	<b>Leader/Co-leader</b> City of Vaasa INCASOL	<b>Leader/Co-leader</b> (*)
<b>WG Composition:</b> Municipality of Baja JRC Municipality of Bytom INCASOL Department of Environment and Spatial Development – Flanders EUROCITIES UniverCities AMAT GBCE	<b>WG Composition:</b> MEHI EUROCITIES Cesis Municipality German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development Bergisch Gladbach Municipality	<b>WG Composition:</b> Kladno Municipality INCASOL AMAT UniverCities JINAG EUROCITIES Cesis Municipality GBCE	<b>WG Composition:</b> EUROCITIES Municipality of Bytom German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development UniverCities AMAT Bergisch Gladbach Municipality MIVAU INCASOL MEHI Kladno Municipality Municipality of Baja JRC Municipality of Bytom

## 6.2 Responsibilities of coordinators/partners

The works of the Partnership are coordinated by the **City of Mechelen** and **the Green Building Council Espana**. According to the Multiannual Working Programme, the coordinators of the Partnership have the following responsibilities:

- Chairing all Partnership meetings;

- Organising the work in-between Partnership meetings, including but not limited to written consultation, asking for contributions, preparing documents and drafting a concise annual report;
- Ensuring the link between the partnership and urban authorities, Member States and the Commission, including the UDG and DGUM meetings, as well as other stakeholders not directly involved in the Partnership;
- Cooperating with other Partnerships, when deemed to add value;
- Participating and contributing to other working groups/ networks;
- Coordinating and drafting the Action Plan;
- Monitoring and reporting on progress;
- Coordinating the work by ensuring the quality and timeliness of contributions, mediating different positions with the purpose of finding common ground and an agreeable position;
- Ensuring visibility by coordinating the communication on actions and results;
- Relaying results from the partnership to the DGUM meetings.

The responsibilities of the **Working Groups leaders include:**

- Organising, preparing and chairing working group meetings;
- Defining and allocating the work among working group members;
- Reporting on progress towards the coordinator and the Secretariat to prepare upcoming partnership meetings;
- Report on progress on the specific working group in the Partnership meetings;
- Delivering work results according to the partnership's timetable;
- Delivering information for communication on the work of the Partnership;
- Communicating and exchanging information with other WGs leaders and Urban Agenda for the EU partnerships on relevant topics.
- The partners are the foundation of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership and are fully engaged in the work on the agreed topics and subtopics, as well as in the process of developing content.

**The partners have specific roles and responsibilities:**

- Participate in the technical work of the Partnership with their own resources;
- Contribute to the implementation of different actions of the action plan;
- Contribute to the Partnership through their own individual expertise, but also the wider knowledge of the organisation they represent;
- Assist in the debate about the Partnership within their territory;
- Contribute to the implementation/dissemination of the Partnership action plan at the national/regional level.

## 6.3 Main steps/activities/output

### Phase 1 Orientation Phase (Jan – June 2025)

During this phase, partners work on identifying the key focus areas of the Partnership, and refining the sub-topics to match the knowledge, mandate and resources available. As the key deliverable, the



Orientation Paper narrows down the thematic scope of the Partnership and defines its specific objectives, taking into account the political/institutional mandate of the Partnership members, their available knowledge on the selected topics and their willingness to commit resources. This is an exploratory phase, aimed not only at defining the thematic focus, but also at establishing the optimal working processes.

*Key deliverable: **Orientation Paper***

## **Phase 2 Stocktaking**

The Stocktaking phase offers the opportunity to review what has already been done on the selected topics at the EU level to avoid duplication and ensure coordination (strategies, actions and working groups/networks covering these issues). Through this, partners map existing initiatives, policies, networks, and expertise, with “Scoping Fiches” as optional means to analyse topics and guide the development of the future Action Plan.

*Key deliverable: **Scoping fiches (optional)***

## **Phase 3 Selection of Actions and Drafting the Action Plan**

This phase is aimed at reaching an agreement on a series of actions based on the final list of priorities. The main outcome of this phase is the Draft Action Plan, which outlines the key actions the Thematic Partnership plans to implement. It also includes a roadmap detailing the steps, activities, timeline, and required resources.

*Key deliverable: **Draft Action Plan***

## **Phase 4: Collection of feedback**

The public consultation seeks to gather feedback, suggestions, and recommendations on both the overall goals and objectives of the Draft Action Plan, as well as the specific proposed Actions. It is open to all interested stakeholders, including public authorities, academic and research bodies, businesses, NGOs, experts, and citizens. As part of this phase, a public consultation survey is developed, enabling all who wish to contribute their insights and ideas to support the refinement of the Partnership’s proposed Actions.

*Key deliverable: **Public Consultation (survey)***

## **Phase 5: Final Action Plan Development**

The feedback and suggestions collected during the public consultation is integrated in the final version of the Action Plan.

*Key deliverable: **Final Action Plan***

## **Phase 6: Implementation of Actions, Monitoring and Evaluation**

The coordinators, in collaboration with the Action Leaders, oversee and monitor the implementation of the actions. During this phase, it is essential for the Partnership to establish connections with relevant

authorities, organizations, enterprises, and stakeholders, while ensuring full transparency throughout the process. The Monitoring Table of Actions provides a comprehensive overview of the initiatives undertaken by the various Thematic Partnerships.

*Key deliverable: **Monitoring Table of Actions***

***Additional activities: Transversal Working Groups***

To increase the dissemination potential, advocate for important topics and attract more funding opportunities for the future implementation of Actions within the current programme timeline, but also beyond it, the Partnership has established three transversal topics where members work on the following activities:

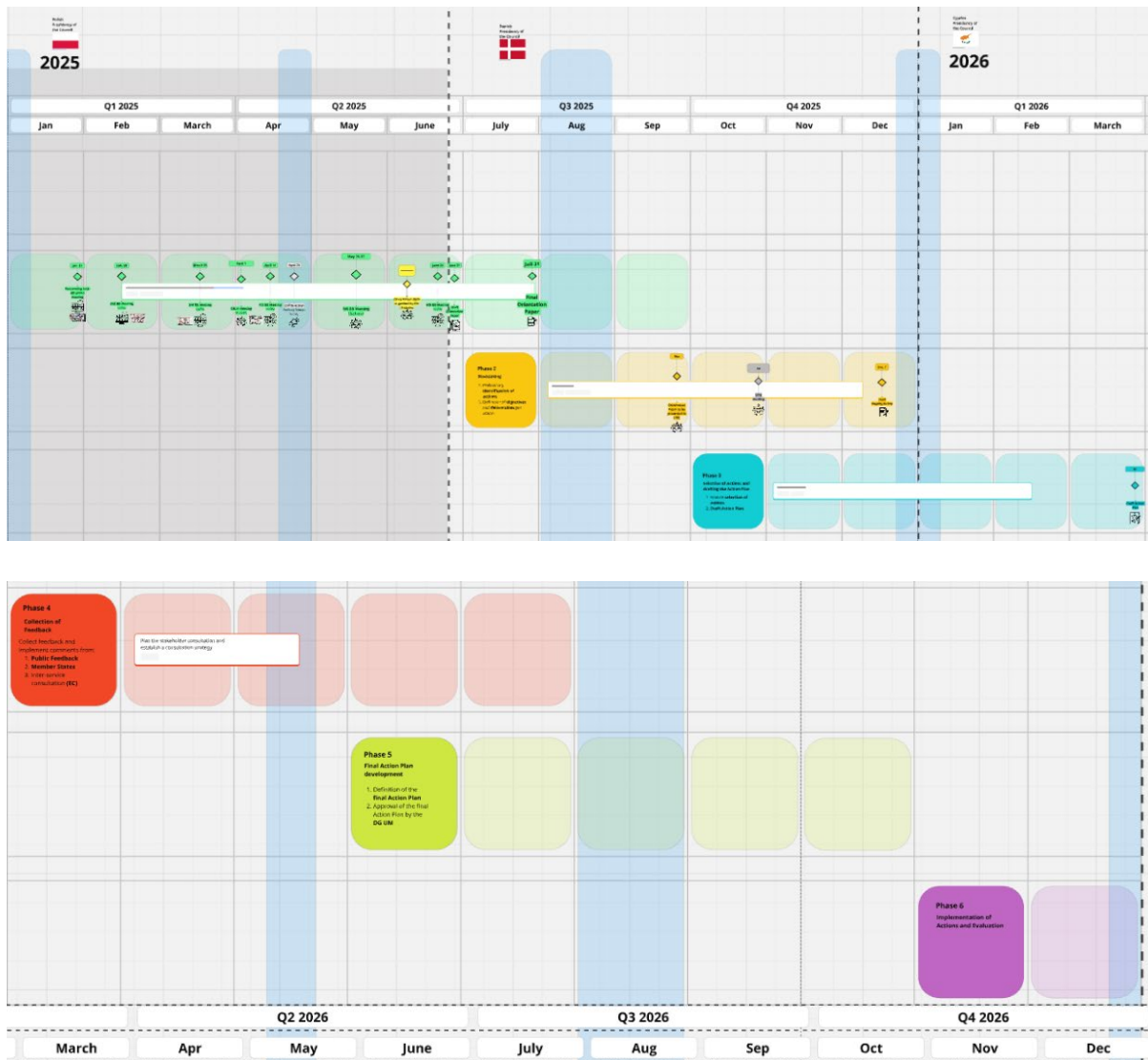
- **Advocacy** – the aim for this activity is to provide supporting framework for advocacy activities among the partnerships and its working groups. This activity is done via coordinator’s meetings or ad-hoc work sessions. Under this activity the Partnership has delivered their joint response to the request for feedback to the Future EU Agenda for Cities.
- **Communication** – the aim for this activity is to provide a supporting framework for dissemination activities among the partnerships and its working groups. This activity is done via coordinator’s meetings or ad-hoc work sessions.
- **Funding** – the aim of this activity is to attract funding and resources to support the implementation of actions and secure engagement of members. This activity is done via coordinator’s meetings or ad-hoc work sessions.

## 6.4 Process and timeline (Miro Board)

According to the Pact of Amsterdam, a Partnership typically delivers results in about three years, with the option to extend. It follows a structured process, beginning with a scoping phase – supported by prior EAA contributions – that includes brainstorming and drafting an Orientation Paper on sub-themes of the building decarbonisation. This is followed by a stocktaking phase to assess challenges, identify solutions, and select actions. A draft Action Plan is then shared for public consultation and refined based on feedback from the European Commission, Urban Development Group members, and other stakeholders. After final approval by the Directorate General on Urban Matters, implementation begins. The process involves regular collaboration between Member States, the Commission, and other actors, in line with the Pact’s principles. The figure below illustrates the main phases of the BD Partnership.



**Figure 4. Timeline of the BD Thematic Partnership**



## 6.5 Rules for a good Partnership cooperation

### Meetings and Communication of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership

Monthly plenary meetings facilitate decision-making, track progress, and align strategies within the BD Thematic Partnership. Led by BD Coordinators and supported by the TPO, these meetings include updates from WGs, feedback exchange, and collaborative planning. In-person meetings are held twice a year and may be held alongside relevant events to enhance engagement.

Partners are expected to actively contribute to key documents and participate in plenaries. If absent, they can review the meeting minutes and all the information shared with them on Sharepoint. WGs meet regularly to define plans, coordinate tasks, and report at plenaries. WG Leaders and Co-leaders oversee task assignment and contributions. During the stocktaking phase, action leaders may take on

a cross-cutting role, replacing WGs. Bilateral meetings between Coordinators, TPO, and partners address specific needs and promote strong collaboration.

SharePoint is the main platform for file sharing and document access. Miro boards and surveys support thematic inputs. The EUI Permanent Secretariat supports communication efforts via the EUI 2021–2027 Communication Strategy. BD outputs are promoted through UAEU and EUI channels. A Communication Package with templates and visual assets is available on SharePoint. A joint strategy will define key outputs, audiences, event participation, media tools, and social media use.





# 7 CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The capacity to implement has been assessed using the following resources: the application forms submitted to become member of the BD partnership; pitches from the members during the kick-off meeting; and additional information collected during online and in-person meetings of the partnership in the period January – June 2025.

## 7.1 Knowledge

The interaction of integrated renovation programmes, local heating and cooling plans, and renewable energy in cities has been addressed across EU-funded projects and programmes in the recent past (UIA/EUI, URBACT, Interreg, LIFE, and Horizon 2020/Europe/FP7 etc.). A first screening has been done in the Ex Ante Assessment paper. This is complemented with a screening of past and on-going EU funded projects in which members of the Building Decarbonisation Partnership are directly involved. In addition to EU-funded projects, this screening exercise also includes other initiatives in which members of the partnership are either closely involved or are able to have direct access to. These initiatives are categorised depending on their nature and the following categories have been identified: policies & strategies, networks & working groups, studies & research, tools & platforms, and guidance & good practices. A first scan of this overall knowledge existing inside the UAEU Thematic Partnership identified > 50 items. For each item, the relevance is assessed and briefly described for each working group. The table will be regularly updated by the partnership and is already a first step towards a more thorough stocktaking exercise.

**Table 9. Key knowledge areas within the BD Partnership ([full list available on Sharepoint](#))**

local	policies & strategies		Heating and heat-cooling	Municipal heatplan and local heat-coalition of Mechelen	Mechelen	
EU	funded project	Interreg	EURBA	European Urban exchanging knowledge on climate neutrality	Mechelen	On-going
national	studies & research	Klimaatplan (BE)	Recharge Visie ten	High-level feasibility of district heating along the city's ring road and large-scale renovation of co-owned condominiums in Mechelen	Mechelen, Dep Omg	
national	studies & research	Klimaatplan (BE)	Der Eerste Levens		Dep Omg	
national	studies & research	Klimaatplan (BE)	Wijk Koning		Dep Omg	
EU	funded project	BB - ELENA	SUPRA		Mechelen	Completed
EU	funded project	NFC	LEI sloev		Milan	
national	tools & platforms		URBAN3R		MNAU	
national	guidance & good practices			Guidelines for municipal renovation & generation strategies in Spain	MNAU	
national	guidance & good practices			Guidelines for local heating and cooling plans in Spain	MNAU	
EU	funded project	Horizon Europe	NeutraPath		EuroCities	
EU	funded project	H2020	EU peers		SBCE	
EU	funded project	EU	Nordic Energy Capital (NEC)	Nordic Energy Capital - Creating system level urban energy transition	Yaasa	
EU	funded project	Horizon Europe	REGON	Decarbonise EU neighbourhoods by employing a toolbox powered by digital technologies and sustainability assessments	Milan	On-going
EU	funded project	H2020	SEACCS	Positive Energy District	Kladno	
EU	funded project	Horizon Europe	Smart4Eus	Smart grid	Kladno	
EU	funded project	LIFE	ENAG	System support of the renovation wave in the South Moravian Region	South Moravia	On-going
EU	funded project	LIFE	New PACE	New PACE will develop, test and deploy an innovative financial framework designed to finally create a market for energy efficiency at the pace and scale of other on-tax solutions, starting in Spain and Netherlands and further expanding into Europe	GFI	On-going
EU	funded project	H2020		Sustainable Plus Energy Neighbourhoods: Increase the share of sustainable neighbourhoods with surplus renewable energy, resilient and affordable living places and communities in different contexts, climates and markets in Europe	Incasol	Completed
EU	funded project	Interreg	Climas4Europe	Climate Action decision Support Tool to accelerate cities' progress towards climate neutrality	Syrom	On-going
EU	funded project	ELENA?		Syrom's Energy Transformation Concept	Syrom	
EU	funded project	EU	ERA		MEH	

## 7.2 Mandate

Key mandates for public authorities that are member of the BD partnership relate to adopted policies and strategies on the corresponding level. Climate- and energy related policies correspond mostly to the following policies:

- European institutions: Recast of the EED, EPBD, RED and the Electricity Market Reform
- National authorities: Transposition of the mentioned EU directives in national legislation. Highly relevant (upcoming) national policy initiatives relate to national renovation programmes (EPBD) and local heating and cooling plans (EED)
- Local authorities: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Some members of the BD partnership have already adopted a municipal heatplan (e.g. City of Mechelen).

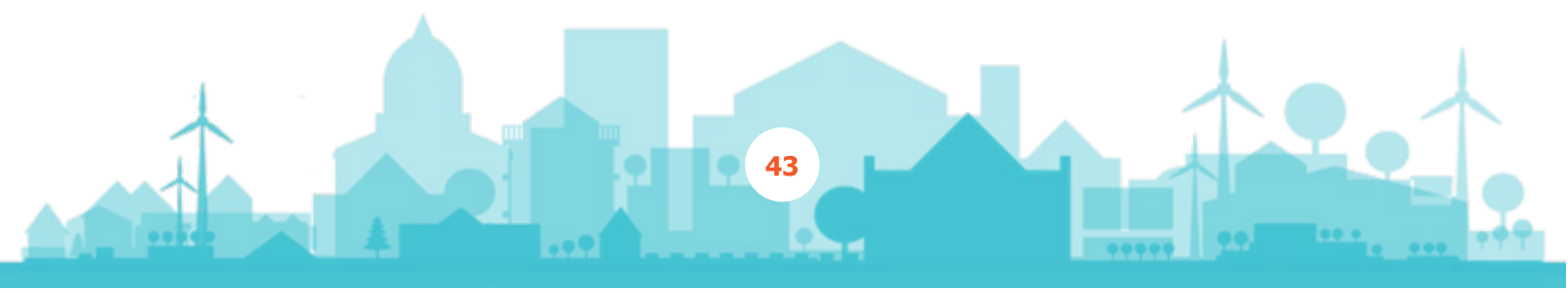
Non-public organisations have the mandate to engage in the BD partnership, if it matches the values and mission of their organisation. Members identified the following objectives of the partnership that match their values and mission of their organisations:

- Facilitate public and private initiatives concerning decarbonisation
- Bridge between local governments and EU
- Coordinate the building value chain at all scales;
- Boost the topic of decarbonisation in the whole life cycle
- Catalyse private finance in just transition
- Fuel funding opportunities to implement municipal projects
- Activate local stakeholders in the transformation process.
- Identify how to help stakeholders for building decarbonisation
- Promote and develop tools and knowhow to facilitate its implementation
- Decarbonisation of the public affordable housing stock

## 7.3 Available resources

Finally, existing resources among the members of the BD partnership have been screened. Identified resources relate to:

- Staff - via own funding. Members indicate available staff effort between 2h to 1,5 day per month per working group;
- Staff - via EU funding. Higher staff effort is available if the action or thematic scope matches the objectives of funded projects for instance EU-funded projects
- Networks: Members have access to local, regional, national and/or international networks. Identified networks correspond to international (institutions of the European Commission, EU projects, EU initiatives i.e. Mission Cities), national (eg Spain, Latvia), regional (eg Bavaria) and local level (eg Mechelen and other cities and towns in the partnership, EuroCities, CEMR). Members also have access to specific sectors e.g. building sector (GBCE), finance (GFI), research (UniverCities), ...
- Accommodation: Some members have accommodation at their disposal to host in-person meetings or to organise dissemination and advocacy events (e.g. accommodation in Brussels)
- Expertise: see "Knowledge"



# ANNEX 1

## TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AH	Affordable housing
CABERNET	Concerted Action on Brownfield and Economic Regeneration Network
CCI	Cross-cutting issues
CEDEFOP	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
CF	Cohesion Fund
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CLLD	Community-led local development
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CoR	Committee of the Regions
COSME	EU's programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
COTER	Commission de la politique de cohésion territoriale et du budget de l'UE
CPR	Common Provision Regulation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DE	District Energy
DG	European Commission's Directorate General
DG CLIMA	European Commission's Directorate General for Climate
DG COMP	Directorate-General for Competition
DG ECFIN	Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs
DG EMPL	Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
DG ENER	European Commission's Directorate General for Energy
DG ENVI	European Commission's Directorate General for Environment
DG EPL	European Commission's Directorate General for Employment
DG HOME	Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.
DG REGIO	European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy
DGUM	Directors-General Meeting on Urban Matters
DSJC	Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition
DSO	Distribution Network Operations
EC	European Commission
EDP	Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
EEA	European Economic Area
EEB	The European Environmental Bureau
EEFIG	Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group

EFSI	European Fund for Strategic Investments
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
ELA	European Labour Authority
ELENA	European Local Energy Assistance
ELTI	Education and Life Long Learning
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
EPSR	European Pillar of Social Rights
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERHIN	European Responsible Housing Initiative
ESCO	Energy Services Company
ESF	European Social Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund plus
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ESPON	European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion
ETS	Emission Trading System
EU	European Union
EUKN	European Urban Knowledge Network
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FUA	Functional Urban Area
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HE	Housing Europe
HP	The Housing Partnership
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission
INTERREG	European Regional Development Fund
ITI	Integrated Territorial Investments
IUT	International Union of Tenants
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
JRC	European Commission's Joint Research Centre
LLCG	Lifelong Career Guidance
LLL	Lifelong Learning
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MS	Member State
NEET	A person who is 'Not in Education, Employment, or Training'
NESTA	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (UK)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OP	Operational Programme
OP	Operational Programme
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health



PES	Public Employment Service
PoA	Pact of Amsterdam
PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
R&D	Research and Development
RFSC	Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities
RIS	Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGEI	Services of General Economic Interest
SMEs	Small and Medium sized Enterprises
SMSTs	Small and Medium Sized Towns
TG	Task Group
UA	Urban Agenda
UAETP	Urban Agenda Energy Transition Partnership
UDG	Urban Development Group
UDN	EU Urban Development Network
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
URBIS	European Investment Advisory Hub
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VAT	Value added tax
WG	Working Group
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

