



# **Climate Active Neighbourhoods**

## **Newsletter N°2**

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# 3rd CAN Working Group meeting

Activate neighbourhoods to implement local low carbon strategies – CAN partnership discussed roles of local authorities, multiplicator groups and neighbourhood initiatives

The city of Essen in the middle of the German Ruhr-area welcomed over 30 representatives from the 10 CAN project partners. Deputy Mayor Simone Raskob welcomed the partnership to the City of Essen, European Green Capital 2017.



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The relevant question in this session was: Which role does the municipality play in different organisational models to enhance the necessary commitment of local neighbourhoods while securing coherence of bottom-up actions and city wide strategies and which approach is best in which situation?

Three approaches were tested by the project partners which lead to discussions on how far a "grass-root" approach, where the local authority is giving as much responsibility as possible to bottom-up initiatives to act in their neighbourhood, can go and what kind of results can be achieved. The very time consuming face-to-face approach was analysed on how the consultation of each household can be most effective. Last but not least the role of multiplicator groups and how they can be identified was discussed.

"The experiences of the international partnership show that you need to combine

these approaches to fit the situation", Kai Lipsius explains on behalf of the hosting partner. Furthermore the project partners outlined the importance of using synergies between other issues such as health and social affairs and seize any opportunity to integrate energy and climate mitigation matters.

The site visit to one of Essens most deprived neighbourhoods arranged by the representatives of Essen has shown how a mixture of all approaches leads to an empowered neighbourhood that is taking an active role in improving their living situation.

The resulting organisational models developed by the international partnership will be summed up in a "Coaching framework" providing transferable advice to similar local authorities to facilitate implementation of low carbon strategies.



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## Upcoming Events

The next working group and CAN partner meeting will take place on 05. - 06. October 2017 in Arnhem.

## Spotlight on partner activities:

### Interview with Kai Lipsius, Commissioner for climate protection of the City of Essen

#### Please introduce the City of Essen.

Essen is a modern business, commercial and service metropolis with 590.000 inhabitants in the heart of the Ruhr Metropolis with 5.4 Million people. The successful 150-year transformation story, from a city of coal and steel to the European Green Capital 2017, is a role model of structural change for many cities in Europe.

Essen is home to the headquarters of some of Germany's biggest companies, e.g. RWE AG, Thyssen-Krupp, E.ON, Karstadt Warenhaus GmbH, Evonik Industries AG, and Hochtief AG. What confuses many visitors who see the modern skyline of Essen is that the history of the city is older than that of e.g. Berlin, Dresden or Munich. In 2002, Essen celebrated the 1150th jubilee of the convent and City of Essen.

Being European Green Capital 2017 Essen will showcase sustainable urban development, to share and promote best practices that have been tried and tested. In this context Essen over 300 citizens' projects and events will be realised in 2017.

#### Why is Essen participating at CAN?

Essen wants to be a blueprint for NWE cities that can achieve great things under difficult budget conditions and with limited financial resources. Realising energy savings, increasing energy efficiency and expand use of renewable energies and cogeneration are the central components of the climate mitigation strategy of the City of Essen, under the aegis of klima|werk|stadt|essen. The CAN projects helps to address all three issues. The success of local climate mitigation action is substantially dependent on the participation of building owners, companies, and the population. In CAN Essen can learn from other NWE Cities approaches and implement and test programmes to empower the citizens towards more climate-conscious behaviour by developing a culture of



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Since January 2012 Mr Kai Lipsius is Commissioner for climate protection of the City of Essen. Previously he worked for 5 years as a senior scientist for the German Federal Environment Agency in the climate and energy department. Kai Lipsius holds a degree in Geoecology from the TU Braunschweig and graduated as Master of Science in Environmental Sciences at the Nottingham University.

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climate mitigation.

With low rates of new construction, the retrofitting of existing buildings is of decisive importance. The specific objective for retrofitting Essen enunciated in its successful application for European Green Capital 2017 is to achieve a quotient of 2.5%-3% p.a.. Of the various obstacles to renovation in Essen, the landlord/tenant dilemma is of particular importance, due to the very high proportion of rental housing. Particularly in the structurally weak districts of North Essen, owners are seldom able to raise basic rent levels and realise a return on their investments. Thus Essen is trying to develop new instruments to support decisions for energy efficiency investments of private house owners.

## How will Essen tackle the problems?

Essen uses the aegis of klima|werk|stadt|essen to pursue integrated, sustainable and climate-friendly urban development through the dual strategy of "mitigation and adaptation". We take climate mitigation action as an opportunity to develop the economic core of the Ruhr Metropolis in an exemplary and sustainable manner. As „European Green Capital 2017“ Essen empowers the citizens to establish a new „culture of local climate action“ and collaborates with bottom-up-initiatives, local science and business as well as politics and authorities. The key to achieving climate mitigation targets is the comprehensive participation of the urban community. In order to network the many different stakeholders for a new culture of local climate action, the Essen Climate Agency was founded in 2012. In CAN it provides advisory services, supports projects, organises information campaigns and events, and builds networks. By connecting people and ideas and bringing together all climate-actions of the urban community, it supports stakeholders on every level. One central service of the Climate Agency is the energy efficiency partner system (partnership project with Kreishandwerkerschaft Essen) to help landlords to get around prevalent reservations. As another practical approach, Essen is going to merge the creative potential (artists and creative-business) and the urban development-activities with the dynamic and the targets of a growing „European Green Capital 2017“-movement in the City-North-quarter, a deprived but highly pulsating district. New ideas for local climate action will be actually tried out in "Living Labs".

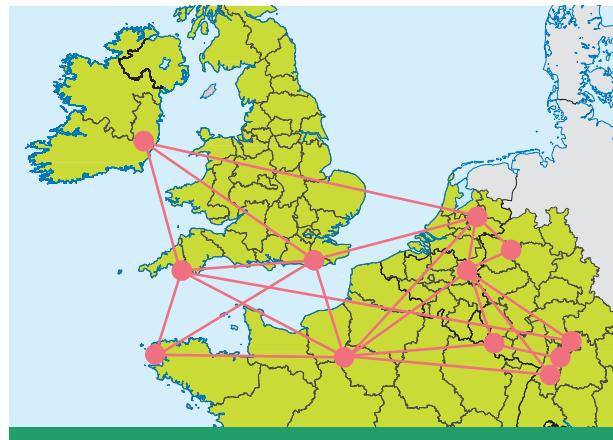
Read the full interview on CAN under section 'Project Partners'

## Project Facts

### Duration

February 2016 to October 2019

€ 7.8 million total project budget  
€ 4.7 million funded via ERDF



The transnational partner network of CAN

## The Partners

- Climate Alliance (Lead Partner)
- AmicusHorizon with Energise Sussex and Hastings Borough Council
- Gemeente Arnhem
- Brest métropole with Brest Energie
- Energieagentur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Stadt Essen
- Liège Energie with Ville de Liège
- Plymouth City Council
- EPAM Seine-Aval with Mantes-la-Jolie
- Stadt Worms

Find out more on [www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/climate-active-neighbourhoods-can/](http://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/climate-active-neighbourhoods-can/)

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