


ENERGYCITIES



Nurturing the roots

28, 29, 30 APRIL 2026

 Guimarães, Portugal

# PROGRAMME

Co-organised with



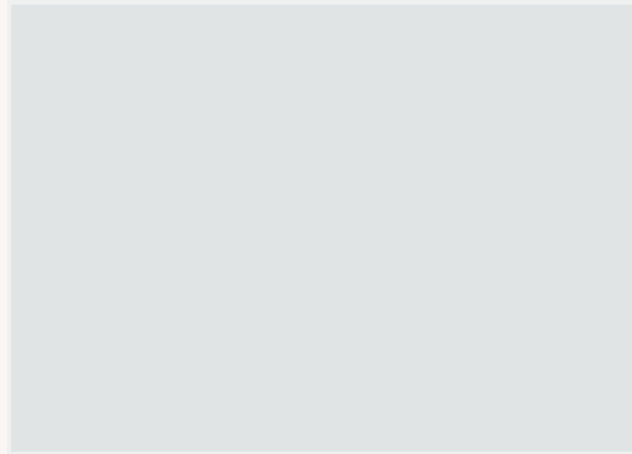
**[26]** Guimarães 26  
European Green Capital

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## TUESDAY 28 APRIL

City hall



14:00 - 18:00

**Side event:**  
European Affordable Housing Initiative seminar

How can cities shape affordable, high-quality housing through procurement, innovation and multi-stakeholder collaboration?

15:30 **Discover Guimarães**  
Touristic visits

17:30 **Registration and networking moment**

19:00 **Official welcome**

19:30 **Cocktail reception**

## WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL

Teatro Jordão

08:30-09:00 **Welcome**

09:00-09:30 **Plenary session: Local Democracy, the power of doing**

09:30-16:30 **Journeys**

**Journey 1 “the Seed”:** Building climate governance from the ground up

**Journey 2 “the Habitat”:** Scaling affordable housing through procurement and partnerships

**Journey 3 “the Leaf”:** Communities driving the shift to fossil-free heating & cooling

**Journey 4 “the Pollinator”:** Cities & citizens enabling a fair energy transition for all

**Journey 5 “the Fruit”:** Cultivating food autonomy & security in times of crisis

16:30-17:00 **Speed networking & Bingo**

17:00-17:45 **Debate “Reviving local democracy”**

17:45-18:00 **Energy Cities’ General Assembly**

19:30 **Gala dinner**

22:00 **Light & sound experience**

## THURSDAY 30 APRIL

Centro cultural Vila Flor

08:30-09:00 **Welcome**

09:00-13:00 **Parallel sessions**

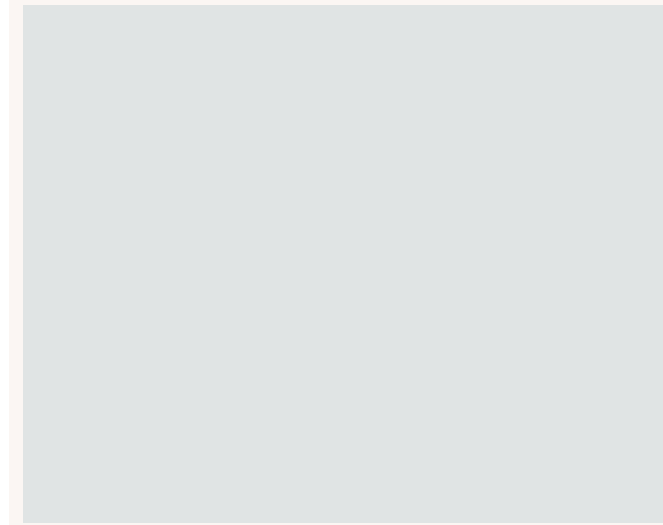
09:00-10:30 **Cities stories**

**Mayors’ club**  
“Local energy transition for strong local democracies”

11:00-13:00 **Spotlight session:**  
tackling indirect emissions

**Project matchmaking**

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**



**Sociedade Martins Sarmento**  
R. Paio Galvão 2, Guimarães

14:00 - 18:00

**Side event: European Affordable Housing Initiative seminar**

How can cities deliver affordable, high-quality housing through procurement, innovation, and collaboration?

15:30 - 17:30

**Torre da Alfândega**  
R. do Anjo 33, Guimarães**Discover Guimarães**

The guided tours are organised by the city of Guimarães.  
The visit will start in front of the “Aqui nasceu Portugal” sign.

**City Hall**

Largo Cónego José Maria Gomes, Guimarães

17:30 - 19:00

**Registration and networking moment**

Visit the different stands to explore Energy Cities' latest campaign on “making heat safe”, hear about our services, connect with Guimarães' partners, and take the opportunity to meet other participants.

*Refreshments will be served.*

19:00

**Official welcome**

**Ricardo Araújo**, Mayor of Guimarães (PT)

**Mohamed Ridouani**, President of Energy Cities and Mayor of Leuven (BE)

19:30

**Cocktail reception with a full selection of vegetarian local dishes**

## Teatro Jordão

Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 321, Guimarães

Energy Cities' Members only

08:30-09:00	<b>Welcome</b>
09:00-09:30	<b>Local Democracy, the power of doing - plenary session</b> <i>Luís Almeida Capão, Vice-Mayor of Cascais (PT), 2026 Capital for Democracy</i> <i>Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor of Leuven (BE)</i>
09:30 - 16:30	<b>Journeys</b>
	<b>J1 "the Seed": Building climate governance from the ground up</b> Exploring key aspects of setting effective local governance mechanisms with private companies.
	<b>J2 "the Habitat": Scaling affordable housing through procurement and partnerships</b> Discovering how innovative procurement, nature-based solutions, New European Bauhaus principles, and cross-sector partnerships can drive affordable, sustainable housing at scale.
	<b>J3 "the Leaf": Communities driving the shift to fossil-free heating and cooling</b> Exploring inspiring approaches to citizen and community involvement in delivering fossil-free heating and cooling.
	<b>J4 "the Pollinator": Cities &amp; citizens enabling a fair energy transition for all</b> Exploring how cities and citizens can work together to maximise inclusion to ensure a fair energy transition for all.
	<b>J5 "the Fruit": Cultivating food autonomy &amp; security in times of crisis</b> Exploring how food production, distribution and access can work together to ensure equitable and availability of quality food for all.
16:30 - 17:00	<b>Speed networking and Bingo time!</b> Meet with other participants and fill in your bingo card by collecting the key takeaways from the five journeys. Learn from the other journeys and connect with new people. Fastest participants win a prize! <i>Refreshments will be served.</i>
17:00-17:45	<b>Debate "Reviving Local Democracy"</b> <i>Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor of Leuven (BE),</i> <i>Benedek Javor, EU Budapest (HU) representative</i> Join the debate to develop concrete alternatives at home that address citizens' needs and restore our ability to shape our own future.
17:45 - 18:00	<b>Energy Cities' General Assembly</b> Hear about the current EU landscapes and trends

## Conservatório de Guimarães

Ground floor - R. de Vila Flor, Guimarães

19:30	<b>Gala dinner</b> Badge required - No formal dress code
22:00	<b>Light &amp; sound experience</b>

**Centro Cultural Villa Flor**  
Av. Dom Afonso Henriques 701, Guimarães

Energy Cities' Members only

08:30-09:00

Welcome

09:00-10:30

**Energy Cities' members stories**

Spark exchange and mutual inspiration.

Hear from Vienna (AT), Dijon (FR), Bornova (TR), Assen (NL), Valencia (ES), Cascais (PT), Arnhem (NL), the Province of Fryslân (NL), energy agencies in Lisbon (PT), Porto (PT) and Barcelona (ES), and Energy Cities Algeria.

They will all present a success or a challenge related to collective self-consumption, fair and positive energy districts, water management, gas phase-out, heating solutions, food waste, energy communities, and local energy transition drivers.

**Mayors' club: "Local energy transition for strong local democracies"**

*Closed-door session only for local elected representatives*

Explore how local governments can advance the energy transition while strengthening local democracy.

Part I: "Blocked by permits, stuck without grids: Can mayors deliver the energy transition?"

Part II: "Getting out of gas, easier said than done?"

The discussion outcomes will contribute to the policy work of Energy Cities at the European level.

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

11:00-13:00

**Project matchmaking: turning ideas into collaborations**

**Michele Sansoni**, CINEA  
**Anke Möllers**, European Urban Initiative (EUI)

Hear about the **latest open calls under the LIFE Programme and the EUI** and join the interactive matchmaking round. Cities will have 2 minutes to pitch their project ideas, connect with potential partners, and refine their concepts with the group.

**Spotlight session: tackling indirect emissions**

**Barbara Coehlo**, Cascais Ambiente (PT),  
**Vera Araujo**, City of Santo Tirso (PT),  
**Rachel Singer**, ReLondon (UK)  
**Jack McQuiban**, Zero Waste Europe  
**Françoise Bonnet**, ACR+

Explore cities' role in shaping consumption patterns, enabling repair and reuse cultures, managing textile waste streams and partnering with local industries to cut the hidden emissions of fast fashion.

13:00-14:00

Lunch

# CONTACT

## Any questions?

Contact us: [annual.forum@energy-cities.eu](mailto:annual.forum@energy-cities.eu)

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