

C4O welcomes the publication of the European Electrification Action Plan, as a key step toward a resilient, clean energy future

C4O Cities welcomes the [publication of the Electrification Action Plan](#) by the European Commission, as a significant cornerstone for the transition away from fossil fuels. This plan signals a strong commitment to increase electrification in the European Union (EU) with a proposal for an electrification target of 46% by 2040 and measures to address important barriers that have hindered the acceleration of progress so far. These include:

- **Addressing the disparity of the cost of fossil gas and electricity:** Burning fossil fuels is the primary driver of the climate crisis and a risk to health as well as to financial stability. The aim to bring electricity-to-gas price ratios down, including through new legislation, is one of the most important levers to accelerate the shift towards efficient electrified heating and transport, notably with heat pumps and electric vehicles, and to future-proof electricity bills. Investing in and rewarding flexibility and storage will help integrate more renewable power, build resilient energy systems and contribute to making clean energy the most accessible and affordable option for households.
- **Emphasising the role of heat pumps and electric vehicles:** Expanding the role of these technologies, which are primed to reach [positive market tipping points](#), will effectively support a more affordable energy future. Aiming to significantly increase heat pump installations by 2030 and the potential of a new "clean heat market mechanism", which would incentivise rising share of heat pump sales from manufacturers, can underpin the switch away from fossil-fuel based systems to integrated clean heating and cooling solutions. Similarly, for electric vehicles (EVs), creating market certainty for automakers is key to faster uptake. Paired with renewable electricity generation and energy efficiency, these technologies can drastically reduce emissions, improve air quality and lower costs for those living and working in Europe.
- **Jobs and skills:** The creation of good, green jobs is key for the success of the fair energy transition. Implementing inclusive training and skills-building as well as reskilling programmes can help prepare workers for new roles or transition from high-polluting industries to the green economy.

Empowering cities to deliver

Cities are not just consumers, they are doers and implementers of a just and equitable energy transition. To turn this plan into tangible results, we urge the European Commission and Member States to:

- **Leverage local heating and cooling plans:** Many proposals in the electrification plan, especially related to buildings, are linked to [decarbonising heating and cooling](#), which is a major challenge for cities. Cities must be included as full partners in policy

development and implementation of the electrification plan to ensure action is tailored to local contexts. For example, for the increase of the installations of heat pumps by 2030, including through a "clean heat mechanism", working together with cities, currently developing and implementing their local heating and cooling plans, could help support the most vulnerable, rolling out the solutions in the most fair and coordinated way. Support for the local heating and cooling plans through the European City Facility is welcome but subnational governments require the right powers as well as additional financial and capacity support to fully put these plans in motion.

- **Ensure complementarity with other policies:** Electrification needs to be combined with timely implementation of key existing policies for increasing [renewable energy](#) and flexibility of the energy system, [improving energy efficiency](#), and [phasing out polluting vehicles](#) for 2030 and beyond. For example, cities and subnational governments need to be equipped with the necessary resources and tools to facilitate a faster deployment of rooftop solar systems and accelerate the creation of energy communities. It will also be beneficial to elevate their role as active players in the power purchase agreements market. In addition, a coherent framework allows cities and regions to further electrify their public fleets, expand charging networks and create low- and zero-emission zones, alongside derisking supply chains.
- **Strengthen green public procurement rules:** [Public procurement must shift from a cost-driven approach to a sustainability-focused model](#). This should include supporting cities in innovative procurement models, such as aggregated purchasing, to scale clean solutions. In future, any review of targets for public procurement of EVs in 2027 should maintain ambition in order to allow cities to further lead the way in this sector.
- **Invest in the role of the cities in uplifting skills and green quality jobs:** Cities can help with the [creation of stable, high-quality jobs in the green economy](#), including by facilitating access to green jobs, delivering skills building programmes, strengthening social protections and integrating unions into workforce transition planning. They can also develop tailored programs targeted at all residents, especially underrepresented communities that can help address skill shortages.

Electrification is a social and economic opportunity. Central to this effort must be a transition that is both [just and inclusive](#). It should be ensured that benefits are distributed equitably by involving local communities, supporting workers, and providing access to affordable clean energy.

Júlia López Ventura, C4O's Regional Director for Europe, said: "By transitioning away from the price shocks and supply disruptions inherent in fossil fuel dependence, we can deliver to communities energy that is affordable, renewable, reliable, and resilient. The European Electrification Action Plan points in the right direction but only by working across all levels of government, can we ensure it delivers on its objectives. As always, cities stand ready to do their part to make sure that the benefits of the just transition, such as cleaner air, more affordable energy bills, lower transport costs and warmer homes, reach all Europeans."