

Planning and building the energy infrastructure for a net zero future

In-person event (with live stream)

Tuesday, 19 September 2023, 9:00-13:30 (CEST)

Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU
47 Rue Montoyer | 1000 Brussels

A well-developed energy infrastructure – the cables that transport electricity and the pipelines that transport molecules – is a pre-requisite for a successful clean energy transition. Yet, the planning and building of energy infrastructure has not received the attention it deserves with most policy debates focussing on the scaling of renewable energies or on market rules for power, gas, and hydrogen.

One big shortcoming is that infrastructure planning in Europe is still done separately for cables and pipelines. The power, heat, hydrogen, and transport maps should be looked at together, since electrification plays a leading role in the decarbonisation of all sectors. Power grids and offshore interconnectors will need to be built faster to correspond to the renewable energy deployment needs, while investments in energy storage and carbon capture and storage as well as in the flexibilisation and digitisation of the energy system need to be scaled up significantly.

At this event, we will discuss how moving away from fossil fuels is more than just a fuel change – it is a transformation of the way we design, build and invest in the infrastructure for a net-zero future. The event is organised by Agora Energiewende together with the Regulatory Assistance Project, Energy Cities, and Foresight Climate and Energy.

Findings from recent Agora reports on the need to manage gas distribution grids in Germany ([LINK](#)) and the phase-out of fossil gas in the EU ([LINK](#)) will feed into the discussion.

Contact

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AGENDA

8:30	Admission & registration
9:00	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Rainer Steffens, Head of Representation of the Federal State of NorthRhine-Westphalia to the EU, Brussels</p> <p>Frauke Thies, Executive Director, Agora Energiewende</p>
9:15	<p>Keynote speech: On molecules, electrons and uncertainties – what future are we planning for?</p> <p>Michael Liebreich, Liebreich Associates</p>
9:45	<p>Panel 1: Phasing down fossil gas whilst scaling up a multi-vector system – mission impossible? (Session will be a live recording for WattMatters Podcast)</p> <p>Dennis Hesseling, Head of the Gas, Coal and Power Markets Division, Directorate of Energy Markets and Security, International Energy Agency (IEA)</p> <p>Michael Liebreich, Liebreich Associates</p> <p>Katharina Umpfenbach, Head of Infrastructure and Energy Systems, dena</p> <p>Moderators: David Weston, Jan Rosenow, Michaela Holl, Foresight Climate and Energy WattMattersPodcast</p>
11:05	Coffee break
11:25	<p>Panel 2: Drawing the map of a future energy system</p> <p>Denise Conway, CEO Heliostorage</p> <p>MEP Jens Geier, Rapporteur for the EU Gas Directive, European Parliament</p> <p>Rory Macrae, External Affairs – Europe, Fortescue</p> <p>Josche Muth, Head of Regulatory & Public Affairs, Ørsted</p> <p>Waltraud Schmid, Representative of Decarb City Pipes 2050/Urban Innovation Vienna</p> <p>Moderation: Sam Morgan, Foresight Climate and Energy</p>
12:45	<p>Outlook</p> <p>Matthias Buck, Direktor Europe, Agora Energiewende</p>
13:00	Networking lunch