Press Release

Local authorities call for an ambitious energy efficiency target to fight against climate change

Climate Alliance joins Coalition for Energy Savings

9 December 2015 – As local authorities meet in Paris to discuss energy efficiency solutions, Climate Alliance joins the Coalition for Energy Savings and calls for ambitious energy efficiency legislation in the European Union.

While COP21 climate negotiations are ongoing, local authorities are more involved than ever in taking climate action on the ground. In that context, Climate Alliance, grouping more than 1,700 member municipalities throughout Europe, has joined the Coalition for Energy Savings and its efforts to unlock the multiple benefits of energy efficiency.

In their resolution on the 2030 climate and energy framework, the 1,700 members of Climate Alliance, representing 60 million citizens, called on the European Commission to propose a 40% EU-level binding energy efficiency target, a level of ambition which is also supported by the European Parliament.

"An ambitious and binding energy efficiency target at EU level will help local authorities embrace energy efficiency solutions and bring tangible benefits for citizens”, said Tine Heyse, the President of Climate Alliance and the Deputy Mayor of Gent.

“We welcome Climate Alliance joining our quest to put energy efficiency first in all decision making”, said Stefan Scheuer, Secretary General of the Coalition for Energy Savings. “This means that the benefits of an ambitious energy savings target should be properly valued when preparing future legislation”.

Tomorrow, Climate Alliance will be hosting an event during the Paris COP21 presenting the vision of local authorities for energy efficiency in 2030. Scientists, local leaders, city networks and industry representatives will present best practices and discuss successful solutions to realise the full potential of energy efficiency in cities.

As a multi-stakeholder Coalition, uniting 30 European business, civil society, consumer, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings calls on the European Commission to urgently reconsider its current approach to assessing the impacts of energy efficiency policies, which has been exposed to substantial well-founded critique over the last 18 months.

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The Coalition for Energy Savings brings together business, professionals, local authorities, trade unions, consumer and civil society associations. The Coalition’s purpose is to make the case for a European energy policy that places a much greater, more meaningful emphasis on energy efficiency and savings. Coalition members represent more than 400 associations, 150 companies, 15 million supporters, more than 2 million employees, 2,500 cities and towns in 30 countries in Europe. energycoalition.eu

Notes for editors

• For more than 25 years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With over 1,700 members spread across 26 European countries, Climate Alliance is the world’s largest city network dedicated to climate action and the only one to set tangible targets: each member city, town and district has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent every 5 years. Recognising the impact our lifestyles can have on the world’s most vulnerable people and places, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility. The network fosters cooperation with indigenous peoples, runs awareness raising campaigns and develops tools for climate action planning. It provides ample opportunity for participation and exchange while representing member interests at the national, European and international levels.

• In May 2014, Climate Alliance’s general assembly passed a resolution for a strong and ambitious 2030 framework for climate and energy, calling on the European Commission to develop a clear energy efficiency framework with a 40% binding energy efficiency target.

• Energy efficiency – the local authorities visions for 2030: 10 Dec | 10:00-12:00 | Le Bourget | Hall 2b, German Pavilion. The event will focus on energy efficiency in cities and the main barriers for realising its full potential. Scientists, local leaders, city networks and industry representatives will present best practices and discuss successful solutions.