



DELIVERING AFFORDABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT HOUSING FOR ALL:
Cities, housing providers and architects partnering for climate-resilience while protecting the most vulnerable



11 JUNE 2026	9:00 AM - 16:30 CEST COMET LOUISE - PL. STÉPHANIE 20, 1050 BRUXELLES (BELGIUM)	
-------------------------	---	---

**A NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS
SATELLITE EVENT**

Delivering Affordable and Climate-Resilient Housing for All

Cities, housing providers and architects partnering for climate-resilience while protecting the most vulnerable

11 JUNE 2026 9H00 – 16H30

Comet Louise - Pl. Stéphanie 20, 1050 Bruxelles (Belgium)

The Conference is organised around one central idea: **strong alliances between cities, architects and social, public and cooperative housing providers are essential to deliver climate-resilient and affordable neighbourhoods.** As climate change intensifies heat waves, flooding and extreme weather across Europe, its impacts are not felt equally: **lower-income households are disproportionately vulnerable to climate risks, having the least capacity to adapt.** At the same time, cities and housing providers face growing practical, regulatory, and financial challenges in implementing climate-resilience measures at the local level. In this context, partnerships become the backbone of community resilience—bringing together spatial planning, building design, housing management and community engagement to protect residents, regenerate neighbourhoods and ensure a sustainable, beautiful and inclusive transition to a greener Europe.

As part of the New European Bauhaus Festival, the conference explores **how the collaboration between city–housing providers can turn climate ambition into concrete action on the ground, and the role of architectural planning and design in this process.** It links neighbourhood-level co-creation to European priorities such as the NEB initiative, European Affordable Housing Plan, National Building Renovation Plans, EU Agenda for Cities and the upcoming Climate Resilience Framework, showing how governance, design, planning and investment can accelerate climate-resilient neighbourhood transformation—while overcoming barriers at the local level.

Building on the experience of EU funded initiatives such as **ARV – Climate Positive Circular Communities for the European Green Deal**, which supports cities, architects, and housing providers in delivering circular district-level renovation in affordable housing communities and

oPEN LAB – which revitalises urban areas across Europe to lead the transition to Positive Energy Neighbourhoods, the event goes beyond energy efficiency alone. It highlights why climate mitigation and adaptation must go hand in hand—combining decarbonisation with passive and active design strategies, water management, nature-based solutions and resilient design to improve comfort, health and quality of life, particularly for residents most exposed to climate risks and rising living costs.

Drawing on inspiring examples from cities such as **Vienna, Utrecht, Genk, and Pamplona**, the programme will showcase how strong partnerships between municipalities and housing providers can protect climate-resilient social and affordable housing at scale.

Co-organised by **Architects Council of Europe (ACE), Housing Europe, NTNU, EURO CITIES, UNEP and UN-Habitat**, the conference positions social and affordable housing as a long-term social infrastructure and a key driver of climate adaptation. It will provide actionable guidelines and good practices feeding into the New European Bauhaus, while underlining the need for dedicated investment tools to strengthen collaboration between city-housing providers and scale up climate-resilient neighbourhoods across Europe.

Contributions from international partners, including **UNEP and UN-Habitat**, will introduce global perspectives, such as the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2024/2025; Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All; World Urban Forum 13 Housing Best Practices Showcase, with a special focus on affordable housing.

Room no. & Time	Atrium & Plenary 1
8.30 - 9.00	Registration & Breakfast
Room no. & Time	Plenary 1
9:00 - 11:15	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderated by Yael Meroz, Green Deal Support Office</i></p> <p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Marco Corradi, President of Housing Europe _ Elizabeth Gossart, ACE vice president <p>Plenary Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Yves-Laurent Sapoval, co-chair, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) & Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Cities and Urban Envoy, Ministry of Ecological Transition, France <p>City-housing provider-architect partnership examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genk (Belgium): _ Selina Schepers, Strategic Manager for Climate Transition, City of Genk _ Anneleen Baptist, Innovation Expert, Wonen in Limburg _ Bas van de Kreeke, Habenu-van de Kreeke • Amsterdam (Netherlands): _ Joris Solleveld, Climate Adaptation Program, City of Amsterdam • Sønderborg (Denmark): _ Brian Juhler Larsen, Chief Project Manager at SALUS Social Housing <p>Reactions and roundtable discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Marcos Ros Sempere, MEP (S&D), European Parliament _ Irene Bonvissuto, Team Leader on Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, DG CLIMA _ Mariangiola Fabbri, Senior Policy Officer DG ENER (Housing Task Force) _ Giulia Ragnoli, Head of City Operations Unit, Directorate General, City of Milan _ Jeremy Ferrari, Head of the Transition and Resilience Department, l'Union Social pour l'Habitat
11:15 - 12:00	<p>Joint commitment on' Delivering Affordable and Climate-Resilient Housing for All' focus on the most vulnerable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General Housing Europe _ Elizabeth Gossart, ACE vice president _ André Sobczak, Secretary General, Eurocities
12.00 - 13:00 LUNCH BREAK	

Programme

Parallel sessions for technical support

Plenary 1	Spatial planning strategies to deliver climate-resilient affordable housing - UN Habitat; EUROCITIES
13:00 -14:30	<p>Ensuring access to affordable housing is a critical priority across the European Union. However, this focus must go hand in hand with an equally strong commitment to climate resilience. If cities are to deliver housing that remains affordable in the long term, they must also be designed to withstand the impacts of a changing climate. It is therefore critical that emphasis on affordability does not diminish the importance of climate adaptation. There is a growing need for more integrated and creative solutions that address both affordability and sustainability; delivering benefits for people and the planet alike.</p> <p>The discussion will explore how cities can strengthen collaboration between housing providers and architects to advance this dual agenda. It will consider whether participatory planning is essential, the role of city-level planning strategies, and how to embed both affordability and climate resilience into long-term planning processes—rather than treating them as temporary priorities.</p> <p>AGENDA</p> <p>Presentations (30 mins)</p> <p>_Joris Solleveld, Strategic Advisor on Climate Adaptation and Vital Systems, Gemeente Amsterdam</p> <p>_Michaela Kauer, Director at the Brussels Office, City of Vienna</p> <p>_Eugen Panescu, Executive Board Member at Architects Council of Europe (ACE)</p> <p>Breakout Rooms (30 mins)</p> <p>What is the biggest challenge you face in delivering affordable and climate-resilient housing?</p> <p>Is there a collaboration that you can make from the participants in this room that might be helpful?</p> <p>Wrap Up and Closing Remarks (10 mins)</p>
14:30 - 14:45 COFFEE BREAK	

Programme

Parallel sessions for technical support

Plenary 2	We have the tools. Do we have the skills? Climate-Resilient Housing! Smart Innovation Norway; Green Deal Support Office
13:00 -14:30	<p>Delivering climate-resilient and affordable housing requires more than technology and policies. It depends on people having the right skills, knowledge, and tools to implement solutions in practice. This session explores how digital and AI-driven tools, training programmes, and knowledge-sharing initiatives can support cities, housing providers, and practitioners in this transition. Alongside technical approaches, the session will highlight the importance of human-centred aspects such as co-creation, citizen engagement, and behavioural insights to ensure effective and lasting implementation.</p> <p>AGENDA</p> <p>13:00 – 14:10 Introduction and warm up 13.10 – 13.40 Tour-de-table to present speakers and their fields of expertise 13:40 – 14:20, Open discussion 14:20 – 14:30, Q&A and wrap up</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <p>_Wacław Szarejko and Joanna Jabłońska, PWR - Wrocław University of Science and Technology _Gustaf Lohm, Chief Consultant & Living Labs Leader – University of Aarhus _Vanessa Tavares, Head of Sustainability - BUILT CoLAB _Edgar Valverde Estrella, Team lead Healthy and Sustainable Places and Lifestyles - PNO Innovation (PROBONO)</p>
14:30 - 14:45 COFFEE BREAK	

Programme

Parallel sessions for technical support

Plenary 1	Architecture for Europe’s Housing Future: Beautiful, Affordable, Resilient (EUSEW Energy Day) ACE, NTNU, GlobalABC
14:45 - 16:15	<p>This session explores how building (re)design and adaptive reuse can accelerate climate resilient, affordable housing across Europe. As climate impacts intensify, ensuring thermal comfort, safety and durability becomes essential—especially for households most exposed to heat, flooding and rising energy costs. Integrated design strategies, circular and nature-based solutions, and high-performance approaches that reduce energy demand while improving indoor environmental quality will be highlighted. Drawing on real life projects, it shows how planning and design can deliver resilient, low carbon neighbourhoods. Speakers will examine how lifecycle thinking, circularity and material sufficiency reinforce affordability and resilience, with a focus on aligning decarbonisation and adaptation. The session presents practical pathways to scale future proof building solutions.</p> <p>AGENDA</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>_Judit Kimpian, ACE coordinator on High-Quality architecture & Built Environment/Baukultur</p> <p>_Greta Tresserra, Co-chair of the ACE Sustainable Architecture Work Group)</p> <p>Case Studies presentation (40 mins)</p> <p>_Niki Gaitani, Head of Research/Assoc.Prof., Dept. of Architecture and Technology, NTNU, CoLead ARV Green Deal Project. <i>What We Learn from six climate positive circular communities in Europe. A Combined Perspective on Planning and Design</i></p> <p>_Lorenzo Pagliano, Professor, Building Physics, School of Architecture, Urban Planning, Construction Engineering, Politecnico di Milano & GlobalABC <i>Passive Cooling Hub co-lead, Passive cooling in warming world. Energy and comfort indicators for design, assessment, and precise communication. Application to a case study of social housing in Milano</i></p> <p>_Luca Volpi, Societat Organica, <i>The WikiHousing Barcelona project</i></p> <p>_Mellis Haward, Director at Archio Ltd</p> <p>Panel Discussion (45 mins) moderated by Gearoid CARVILL, Co-chair of the ACE Sustainable Architecture Work Group</p>

Programme

Parallel sessions for technical support

Plenary 2	<p>Supporting the most affected by climate change: Resilient housing support in practice oPENLAB, HOUSING EUROPE</p>
14:45 - 16:15	<p>This session focuses on how cities and social housing providers can protect residents most exposed to climate risks and rising living costs, addressing energy poverty, affordability, and community-based resilience in social and affordable housing. It begins with a short panel grounded in local and global experiences. The session then shifts to a hands-on workshop where participants co-create three actionable support packages: resident guidance for low-energy living, neighbourhood resilience hubs such as cooling shelters and shared spaces, and affordability and protection measures to prevent bill shocks. By the end, the group will consolidate a short “support menu” of transferable measures that city-housing alliances can implement to make climate-resilient housing work for everyone, especially those who need it most.</p> <p>Moderator: Paulina Rodriguez Fiscal (oPEN Lab coordination team)</p> <p>AGENDA</p> <p>Panel discussion (40 min) _Wonen in Limburg and City of Genk, oPEN Lab _Housing company, SALUS _Global or policy lens, Hanane Hafraoui, GlobalABC</p> <p>Moderated Q&A (15 min)</p> <p>Workshop ‘Build a “Support Package” (45 min)</p>
<p>16:30 - 17:30 COCKTAIL AND CLOSING REMARKS BY Anacláudia Rossbach Executive Director, UN Habitat</p>	