

# RIGHT TO ENERGY FORUM

BRUSSELS June 19-20, 2019

Climate action. just transition. energy democracy...  
Building the energy system we need.

To take on climate change and social injustice, we need a strong movement demanding and creating energy solutions for all. This forum will be an opportunity to meet activists, trade unionists, campaigners, and people from all over Europe who work on energy poverty, energy democracy, community energy, and a socially-fair energy transition, in a context of growing discontent in the face of unjust and unambitious climate policies that make the poorest pay the bill of the energy transition.

The forum will include workshops, conferences, an action and two plenaries for collective reflection and strategising. It will be a place to share experiences and practical skills, showcase stories, discuss challenging questions and plan next steps to grow the movement.

## Where:

CGSP - Rue du Congrès  
17-19, 1000 Brussels -  
Metro Botanique or Madou  
Lunches will be provided on  
Day 1 and 2 with vegan and  
vegetarian options.

## Languages:

Spanish and French  
simultaneous translation  
will be made available.



# Programme

## Wednesday, June 19

### 9.00-10.00

Registration, coffee & pastries

### 10.00-12.00

*Welcome by EPSU and EAPN and opening plenary moderated by Susann Scherbarth (Friends of the Earth Europe)*

- Ruth, Fuel Poverty Action
- Josep Babot, Alianza contra la pobreza energética
- Asad Rehman, War on Want
- Aurélie Ciuti, RWADE
- Jan Goudriaan, EPSU
- Yolanda Picazo, Mujeres Cooperativas

### 12.00-13.30

Lunch

### 13.30-15.00

Workshops - Round 1

### 15:00-15.30

Coffee break

### 15:30-17.00

Workshops - Round 2

### 17:00-18.00

Banner-making and action

### 18:00

*Drinks and tapas in Caberdouche, Place de la Liberté 8*

## Thursday, June 20

### 9.00-10.30

Feedback from workshop rapporteurs

### 10.30-11.00

Coffee break

### 11.00-12.30

Discussion with MEP-elects

*What's the plan for a socially fair energy transition?*

*Moderated by Benjamin Denis (ETUC)*

With:

- Saskia Bricmont (Ecolo, Belgium)
- Cornelia Ernst (Die Linke, Germany)
- Theresa Griffin (Labour, UK)

### 12.30-13.00

Closing plenary and political declaration

### 13.00

Lunch

# Workshop line-up

*Workshops are prepared and self-organised by participants.*

*Translations in workshops will be self-organised, except if stated otherwise.*

## 13.30-15.00

### Room 1

#### **Defending the right to energy! Actions and actors**

By: EAPN and Ecoserveis

Interviewing different people attending the workshop : what are their experiences with fighting energy poverty in different EU countries? What works and what does not work? Who are the actors involved in different types of actions. What kind of actions are they involved with, at what level?

Different aspects that will be discussed are: Identification of best multipliers, building capacity/raising awareness, action in households (affected people), creating networks (building relationships), evaluation of the impact of policy action/ lobbying.

### Room 1B

#### **The new EU energy package: new opportunities for a socially fair energy transition**

By: Friends of the Earth Europe

After a year and a half of negotiations, EU decision makers concluded an inadequate deal on Europe's energy future in 2018 that let down the climate and Europe's energy-poor. However, new key political hooks also offered opportunities for change at national level.

On energy poverty, national action plans have been made mandatory for countries which find a significant level of energy poverty. Citizens, communities and local authorities have also won new rights to generate renewable energy that could prove transformative by putting people at the heart of the energy future.

We will tell you more about Europe's energy future, and discuss jointly how we can use new hooks to unleash an energy transformation for all.

### Room 2

#### **Reporting on Energy Poverty: National Focus & EU Perspectives**

By: Cold at Home campaign

Energy poverty is a complex issue with subtleties from country to country and solutions coming from diverse sources (policy, technology, financing, social impact, etc.). This session will have two elements. First, it will look at the importance of local coverage, using the example of reporting done in Romania by Teodora Cimpoi (energy journalist) and Bogdan Dinca (photojournalist). Second, Marilyn Smith (multimedia producer) will show how COLD@HOME ([www.coldathome.today](http://www.coldathome.today)) is collating content from across the EU. The session will include practical tips and considerations.

### **Room 2B**

#### **Citizen empowerment from social movements**

By: Alianza contra la pobreza energética and Enginyeria Sense Fronteres

*In Spanish, with translation*

This workshop will explain the importance of empowering citizens to fight against energy poverty through the experience of the Alliance Against Energy Poverty, a Catalan collective, composed of the affected people themselves, which carries out multiple actions to place responsibility in energy companies and guarantee the energy rights of citizens.

### **Room 3**

#### **Including vulnerable groups in Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) – Towards an inclusive design of the Energy Transition**

By: SCORE

This workshop introduces the current policy developments with respect to renewable energy communities (RECs) and specifically the inclusion of vulnerable groups. It presents the recast of the EU renewable energy directive (RED II) with a specific focus on how and why RED II aims at facilitating the inclusion of vulnerable groups in RECs as a means in the fight against energy poverty. The main objective of this workshop is to discuss possible implementation challenges and solutions in order to drive forward an inclusive energy transition. With respect to designing an enabling framework, we will provide some food for thought including implementation barriers. The workshop participants will then engage in a simulation game during which an existing REC will be confronted with the challenge to engage and include vulnerable groups. Based on the game dynamics participants will derive possible solutions with respect to facilitating the participation/inclusion of vulnerable groups in RECs. At the end of the workshop participants have developed key aspects of an enabling framework.

# 15:30-17.00

## Room 1

### **Energy poverty from an Eastern European angle**

By: Habitat for Humanity International

We would like to present our ongoing research on the connection of residential energy efficiency renovations and reduction of energy poverty if there is any, focusing on Eastern Europe and residential multi apartment buildings. This research aims also to set up a fitting definition of energy poverty to this particular region.

Our research intends to clarify what the term "energy poverty" covers and how it is measured by different indicators. We would like to discuss further with the wider audience on what indicators are crucial for measuring and identifying energy poor in the context of Eastern Europe and what challenges and obstacles are there for not being able to measure it. Finally we would like to discuss and present possible policy solutions to address and target energy poverty in Eastern Europe especially in multi-apartment residential buildings.

## Room 1B

### **Energy, sustainability, and state society (transnational) capital complexes: the enemy within and hostage labour "aristocracy"**

By: Yuliya Yurchenko

Climate politics discourse is moving ahead while politics, policies and politico-economic transformations are lagging behind, global emissions are rising and optimistically only 12 years are left to halt the irreversible anthropogenic climate change.

The EU fancies itself a champion of sustainability reform yet in reality 2020 and 2030 targets have been widely criticised for being ill-conceived, ill-prescribed and insufficient, especially in the context of internationalised production and consumption of emissions. This workshop will draw on research into 20 years of EU energy sector marketisation to draw a historical materialist analysis of contradiction that arise in the state/society/capital complexes on local, national, and global levels due to entanglement of transnational capital accumulation interest with state and labour in an uneven geography that reinforces climate inequality between states and classes globally.

Transnational capitalism and state capitalism e.g. state-owned TNCs such as EDF and Vattenfall, is paralysing for progressive sustainability politics in a combined way. First, optimal allocation of public services i.e. energy, cannot be achieved in capitalist markets that they actively reproduce. Second, viability of state-owned capitalist enterprise is directly linked to labour as wage-earners and as benefactors of the budget contributions of the state asset TNCs making climate inaction a problem of 'labour aristocracy'. Energy democracy advocated by NGOs and trade unions is unachievable without (1) public national, local and

collective form of ownership of energy (generation and supply) and (2) a polycentric mode of governance.

## **Room 2**

### **100% renewable energy transition of EECCA region. Cooperation in post-Soviet reality**

By: Julia Melnyk Pashkovska "Regional campaigner, [350.org](https://350.org) EECCA

Discussing efforts for a just transition in Ukraine and other countries of region, following 5 commitments for a 100% renewable energy transition of cities.

We will discuss with participants how we can cooperate with activists, municipalities and government in a more fruitful, ambitious and stable way.

## **Room 2B**

### **Access to rights and energy poverty: how could we simplify the process for the most vulnerable, how can we ensure a better enforcement?**

By: ERSC JustEnergy

One of the main problems highlighted by social workers and NGOs working on energy poverty is the difficulty to identify households affected by this phenomenon. In many countries, such as Spain or Italy, vulnerable families do not automatically receive specific assistance for bill payments. The issue of having access to effective housing renovation programmes is even more complex. What are the current barriers? Who could be involved and how could we simplify and signpost the process for the most vulnerable and the structures which can help them?

This workshop will allow discussing trends in each country, to identify and share good practices at European level to propose recommendations.

## **Room 3**

### **Energy poverty and gender. An experience from the perspective of empowerment**

By: Alianza contra la pobreza energética and Ingeniería Sense Fronteras

*In Spanish, with translation*

This workshop will present the results of a report made from hundreds of surveys of people who come to social movements with problems of basic supplies and housing. It will explain how women are the main affected by the problem but at the same time we will see the experience of feminine empowerment carried out in the Alliance against Energy Poverty.

# #Right2Energy

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