



Eco-Clusters: Drivers for regional growth & internationalisation

10 October 2012, 10.00 - 15.30
Brussels

Programme ▶

International conference

Clusters are key instruments in driving regional development and employment. The **eco-innovation** sector is recognised as one of the economic sectors with the largest potential for growth in Europe and globally.

The conference will inform experts and decision makers from the regional and local level **about economic opportunities offered by energy and environmental clusters**. It will also offer an opportunity for **exchange among cluster managers** from all over Europe and beyond. In addition to EU strategies in this field, the event will present **successful cluster activities** and their contribution to energy and climate targets as well as to economic growth, employment and internationalisation.

The conference is supported by the Europe INNOVA programme and is a side event to the "Open Days 2012 - the European Week of Regions and Cities".

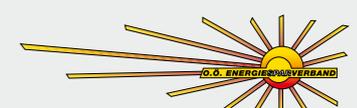
Main conference topics will include

- ▶ Cluster policies in the field of eco-innovation
- ▶ Sharing first-hand experience from the EcoCluP partnership
- ▶ How to develop a successful eco-cluster on a regional level
- ▶ Showcasing innovative and successful eco-innovation cluster activities and programmes
- ▶ Exchange of experience among eco-innovation clusters from all over Europe and beyond

Target groups

- ▶ Organisations involved in developing or managing clusters in the field of eco-innovation (e.g. sustainable energy, water, waste, environmental services, sustainable transport and construction)
- ▶ Local, regional and Member State organisations interested in economic development and/or eco-innovation and/or energy and environmental issues
- ▶ Innovation policy makers and programme owners at European, national, regional and local level
- ▶ Research organisations/universities
- ▶ Energy agencies
- ▶ Professional associations
- ▶ Companies from the eco-innovation sector
- ▶ NGOs etc.

Practical details ▶





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PROGRAMME

► 09.30 Registration and welcome coffee

► 10.00 Start of the conference

► Welcome

José Freitas, European Commission
Christiane Egger, Oekoenergie-Cluster Upper Austria

► Economic development & employment through eco-clusters

Christian Ketels, Harvard Business School, Michael E. Porter's Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, USA (tbc)

► The EcoCluP project

Gareth Jones, EnviroCluster Peterborough, UK

► Successfully developing and managing eco-innovation clusters Innovation, employment and growth in Europe's regions

Topics:

- Internationalisation
- Innovation and R & D
- Practical aspects of cluster management (financing cluster activities, working with cluster partners, qualifications of the cluster team)
- Sharing first-hand experience from EcoCluP activities

Speakers:

- *Nina Harjula*, Finnish Cleantech Cluster, Finland
- *Christiane Egger*, Oekoenergie-Cluster Upper Austria
- *Nicolai Sederberg Rottbøll*, Copenhagen Capacity, Denmark
- *Bernhard Putteringer*, Eco World Styria, Austria
- *Iñaki Gorriño*, Cluster de Energía, Basque Country, Spain

► Lunch break

► Showcasing innovative eco-innovation cluster activities and projects

Topics:

- Supporting demonstration projects for innovative technologies
- Promoting regional companies in global markets
- Fostering eco-innovation in energy-intensive industry sectors
- Developing co-operation among competitors and across supply chains
- Advancing start-up companies in the field of eco-innovation companies
- Making eco-innovation better known
- Connecting eco-innovation companies with potential clients

Speakers:

- *Teresa Bertrand*, EnergyIN Competitiveness and Technology Cluster for Energy, Portugal
- *Hatice Anis*, cd2e, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
- *Mark Bennett*, Dublin City Council/The Green Way, Ireland
- *Johann Wasberg*, Technology Centre Merinova, Vaasa, Finland
- *Denis LeClerc*, Québec Cleantech Cluster, Canada
- *Astrid Severin*, Greenovate Europe, Belgium
- *Bianca Dragomir*, AVAENSEN, The Valencian Energy Industries Cluster, Spain

► Discussion platform

► 15.30 End of the conference

Practical details ►





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Practical details:

Date: 10 October 2012, 10.00 – 15.30

Location: Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi 75, Brussels

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Further information and registration:
www.oec-en.at
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The conference is organised in the framework of the "Eco-Innovation Cluster Partnership for Internationalisation and Growth (EcoCluP)", the first pan-European partnership of cluster organisations focusing on the eco-industries, mostly in the fields of sustainable energy, water, waste, environmental services, sustainable transport and construction. The initiative is supported by the Europe INNOVA programme.

The partnership represents most of Europe's key clusters with a strong environmental portfolio of 13 cluster organisations from 10 countries. EcoCluP is supporting cluster organisations to create better opportunities for the cluster companies to grow and internationalise.

The event is organised by the O.Ö. Energiesparverband/Oekoenergie-Cluster
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Participation in the conference will be free of charge, a prior registration will be required.

Further information: www.oec-en.at

