



Welcome to the latest edition of the STEP UP newsletter. With this newsletter we bring you up to date with what has been recently happening in the project and what is coming in the following months. STEP UP will continue until the end of July 2015. Our next and final newsletter will reflect on the entirety of the project as it comes to a close, including the All Energy Conference in Glasgow and other Europe-wide events.

### All-Energy Conference

STEP UP (Strategies Towards Energy Performance and Urban Planning) is an FP7, EU funded, energy and sustainability planning project that has assisted cities with enhancing their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs). STEP UP has brought together excellence in energy planning and low carbon energy projects from four European cities of Glasgow, Ghent, Gothenburg and Riga to create and disseminate a coherent and easy-to-use model for integrated city and energy planning. The project is a partnership of twelve organisations working together with local government, research and commercial partners from across the four STEP UP cities.



The All-Energy Conference took place in the renewable energy hub SECC in Glasgow on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

STEP UP held two sessions as part of the Sustainable Cities' strand: the politician's panel chaired by Richard Bellingham and the STEP UP cities' panel with presentations from the cities about their SEAPs, best practice projects, lessons learned and other topics.

For more information on the STEP UP project go to:

[www.stepupsmartcities.eu/](http://www.stepupsmartcities.eu/)



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## GHENT

Since the launch of [Ghent's SEAP](#) in January 2015, the implementation of the SEAP was off to a flying start.

### What has been happening in Ghent in the past three months:

- The subsidies for energy-efficient retrofit, which are tailor-made for particular target groups; already turned out to be a great success. 600 households applied for support.
- A strategy for district heating is being worked out in collaboration with other city services and partners. Support is growing fast.
- A test project for unburdening households in retrofitting their houses was launched with a successful start. In only a few weeks 15 pilot houses were carried forward for the retrofitting.
- Energy coaching trajectories for companies are also proving worthwhile. After a successful pilot with 15 companies last year, almost 30 companies signed in for the new round of training.
- For retrofitting social houses the city of Ghent signed contracts with 3 social housing companies.
- Citizens can screen the retrofit potential in the online tool "*Check Your House*". Since the launch 2700 houses were screened already.
- And very soon the city will also launch a new digital tool where the potential for solar energy of every roof in Ghent will be visible.

Thus Ghent's SEAP has already proved to be a useful guide for activating many actors towards creating a climate neutral city.



### Ghent Wins Climate Award

Ghent won a Climate Star Award for coaching companies to reduce their energy consumption. In a pilot study the city of Ghent coached 15 companies. This resulted in a reduction of 1,820 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> and total financial savings of 360,000 Euros. Energy reductions of 20% were also achieved. This pilot took place from 2012 until 2014 within the Interreg-project ACE (Answers to the Carbon Economy).

The European network Climate Alliance awarded Ghent the prize for this project because the pilot illustrates that progressive climate policy goes hand-in-hand with economic recovery.

In October 2014 Ghent launched a new call for companies to enter the programme. Ghent will now coach 110 new companies to integrate energy efficiency into their business.

Click on this link for more information on the [Climate Star Award](#)

## GLASGOW

Glasgow's enhanced SEAP, [the Energy and Carbon Masterplan](#), was approved on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2015 and submitted to the Covenant of Mayors. Glasgow has chosen to maintain its 30% carbon emissions reduction target and has enhanced its SEAP with 33 actions and particular focus on community partnerships, district heating expansion, as well as more urban forestry, municipal electric vehicles and smart grid/smart energy technologies like demand side management and energy efficient street lighting.

### What has Glasgow been up to?

#### Events

- **Designing Smart Cities Conference, April/March 2015:** STEP UP has been featured in presentations given by two project leaders, Richard Bellingham from University of Strathclyde and Dieter Cuypers from VITO.
- **Low Carbon Scotland Conference, Feb 2015:** STEP UP European Project Coordinator, Richard Bellingham, presented on benefits of integrated energy planning as part of the 'Smart Cities' theme.
- **Sustainable Scotland Network Conference, Nov 2014:** STEP UP presented on the benefits of writing a city SEAP and also exhibited at the event at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.
- **Green Business Showcase days in March 2015:** STEP UP partnered up with Sustainable Glasgow's Green Year 2015 and the Energy Saving Trust to deliver two days of business showcase over a range of sites in the city.
- **Scottish Federation of Housing Associations:** Chris Dalrymple, STEP UP Project Manager in Glasgow, presented on council's district heating and renewables projects that help create more affordable warmth in the city.

#### New Masters Programme

The University of Strathclyde's innovative new [MSc Global Sustainable Cities](#) programme, developed as part of STEP UP, is launching in September 2015. With over half the world's population now living in cities, the need for graduates with the knowledge and understanding to tackle major urban issues is growing. The Masters course is multi-disciplinary in design and scope to equip future city leaders with the skills to create and deliver sustainable city strategies around the world.



#### Workshops

Glasgow held a train-the-trainer workshop for the Learning Network on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Keep Scotland Beautiful in Stirling, introducing [tools used in STEP UP](#) for stakeholder analysis and engagement and problem/solution tree analysis.

A series of coaching workshops have been held with Glasgow's companion cities – Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness and the Highlands - providing support on the development of SEAPs and sharing resources from the project.

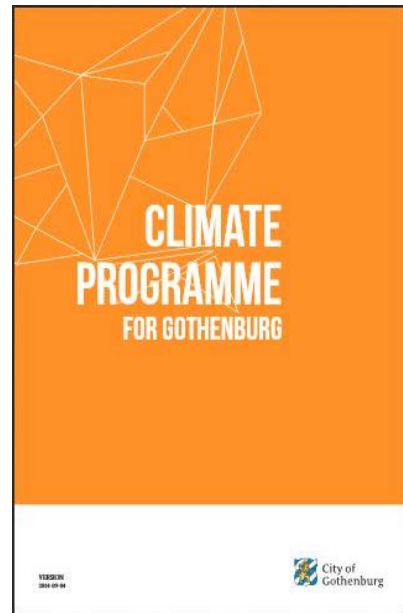
Companion City Nuremberg visited Glasgow in January 2015, providing opportunities for knowledge exchange between the two cities on district heating and integrated project development, with study visits to the Athletes' Village and Glasgow's Recycling & Renewable Energy Centre.

#### Webinars

A series of successful webinars have been held during 2014 – 2015 on a range of topics relating to sustainable city planning and low carbon projects, with guest speakers sharing expertise from a range of organisations, businesses, local authorities and research institutes. Recent webinar topics include project financing for low carbon developments, city benefits of producing a SEAP and strategies for gaining political support. Access the presentations and listen to the webinars [here](#).

## GOTHENBURG

[Gothenburg's SEAP](#) was approved on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Their Climate Programme extends beyond energy related issues and targets, and takes a holistic approach to education, urban planning, transport and consumption as well as energy. Work has been driven by the Environmental Administration at the City of Gothenburg. It has involved ten departments and two universities, thirteen companies, an environmental organisation and numerous stakeholders.



## What has Gothenburg been up to?

### News and Events

At the City of Gothenburg, the development of the innovative projects is proceeding. One of them, the micro terminal, has been included in the planning of the new city area Frihamnen (Free Port).

*“We are very happy with this”, says Anna Svensson, Project Manager at the City of Gothenburg; “This is a very concrete result that sprung out of the STEP UP project. The further work and the implementation of the micro terminal will be a long lasting and sustainable contribution from STEP UP to our city.”*

Partly due to its work with the SEAP, Gothenburg also has won the national competition of the WWF Earth Hour City Challenge, a year-long competition that recognizes cities for adopting renewable energy and preparing for climate-related severe weather. By being announced **Earth Hour Capital of Sweden 2015**, Gothenburg joined the other contestants in the global competition, Global Earth Hour Capital 2015, which took place at the ICLEI World Congress 2015 about sustainable cities, in Seoul, South Korea in April. For more information please visit the Earth Hour City Challenge [website](#).

### Workshops

Gothenburg's SEAP has gained a lot of national and international attention. Amongst others, this recognition has led to a World Bank's invitation for Anna Wenstedt and Peter Rydberg from the Environmental Administration at the City of Gothenburg to participate as experts in a workshop on climate strategies in Yokohama, Japan, in March.

### Dissemination and Training

On a local level, the work with putting Gothenburg's SEAP into practice continues. Currently, a tour to the city's departments and agencies is taking place, at which the Climate Strategy and the SEAP is run through, and where the different actions from the SEAP and the responsibilities for each department are specified.

Between March 2014 and 2015 Gothenburg has also delivered a number of training sessions to their learning network in Sweden on the topics of integrated energy planning, energy planning with a city development focus, energy and urban planning, Swedish smart cities and city planning for sustainable lifestyles.

The last in the Gothenburg's training series will be delivered later this spring and will focus on innovative projects, energy planning and modelling. More details will be posted on our [website](#); make sure to check in again soon for further updates.

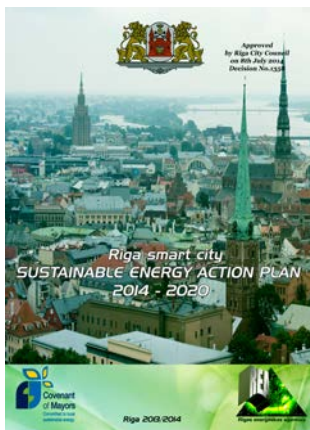


## RIGA

### City Updates

Riga's enhanced SEAP, '[Riga Smart City - Sustainable Energy Action Plan for 2014 – 2020](#)' was developed in close cooperation with multiple stakeholders and approved by Riga City Council on 8th July 2014. The new SEAP surpasses the city's previous targets by aiming for a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 1990 levels of: 55-60% by 2020; 70% by 2030; and 85-90% by 2050.

The enhanced SEAP focusses on energy supplies, an emission free transportation system and providing smart ICT for planning and implementing, with the aim of improving energy supply, security and upgrading energy supply systems and achieving smart city status through the integration of these sectors.



## What has Riga been up to?

### Training and Workshops

The first in a series of joint training workshops by the Riga Energy Agency (REA) and the Latvian Association of Local Governments (LPS) was held on 16th of May 2014. The learning workshops focus on sharing experiences and providing advice on the development of SEAPs and energy management, based on individual cities' experiences, enabling more detailed, results oriented planning and integrated project development.

In 2014 several seminars were held on the topics of access to technologies, sharing good practices and experiences with other cities, open to a range of stakeholders.

- Riga has begun working towards achieving the status of a *smart city* through integration of innovative information and communication technologies (ICT) with energy and transportation.
- Riga has been providing assistance to other 17 cities in Latvia that are producing SEAPs: Jelgava, Jekabpils, Liepaja, Jurmala, Balvi, Ikskile, Karsava, Kegums, Livani, Lielvarde, Ludza, Ogre, Salaspils, Saldus, Tukums, Valka and Vilani. The SEAPs developed by local governments are supported by new Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030.
- Riga recognises that providing access to information, expertise sharing and implementation of new innovative technologies is crucial. Riga's initiative to engage with other cities has been supported by the Latvian Association of Local Governments and resulted in a learning network for Latvian cities that have signed the Covenant of Mayors commitment being established.

### Webinars

- **March 2015:** two webinars were held for Latvia municipalities: "Stakeholder Engagement - Gaining political and stakeholder support for sustainable city planning" and "Enhanced SEAP - CO<sub>2</sub> emissions' calculations and scenario building".
- **April 2015:** "Financing of sustainable energy action plans and innovative projects - Business model & financing for SEAP actions".
- **May 2015:** Riga finishes their training with a full day seminar on: "Innovative projects - Development of innovative projects".