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Guidance for STEP 4 Template 'Visions and targets'

A compelling vision for a sustainable city has to be built on strong collaboration with all relevant political, private and public stakeholders. Based on this vision, a city agrees on SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) on energy efficiency/energy reduction, renewables and carbon emissions.

The template helps to review how the targets proposed by the city and its stakeholders fit into the larger set of targets agreed between EU member states and endorsed by the European Commission. In many cases, cities tend to go beyond the national governments in their commitments for sustainability and climate change. This template also helps to secure contributions from different stakeholders and test how realistic the proposed targets are.

Questions 1-3:

- Defining the overall vision for the sustainable development of the city is important, and can help with the development and implementation of a broad range of city plans and strategies.
- However, the future of city development is an ongoing building and strategic planning process, where energy strategy is one of the key elements to work on. Therefore it is helpful to consider both the vision of the city overall, and the vision for energy generation and use, and energy efficiency.

Question 4:

- An agreed vision on paper is already an achievement, but the vision cannot be reached if there is no common understanding between all concerned, and if it is not shared and does not reflect the interests of various stakeholders.
- Reflecting on the process could be useful even if you are still in the process of defining and agreeing the vision, as this could help you to identify potential risks which need to be minimised.

Question 5:

- This question focuses on the broader context – the links between the city's vision and Europe 2020, Energy 2020, Energy 2030, Smart Cities.
- Planning processes often evolve over time, and interlinked with other strategies and plans. Developing visions and targets, and city plans, with the broader context in mind can help to ensure that the appropriate level of ambition is set and bring about widespread stakeholder support.

Questions 6-8:

- SMART targets set out the way that the vision will be reached, and demonstrate that the vision is achievable within the set timeframes. These should be based on acquired data, reviews and analysis of your city, and developed through engagement with political, private and public stakeholders.