

## Track 16 - Planning and Energy

### Track Chairs:

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Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century energy had to be used close to where it was produced. However, as the possibility to transport energy over long distances emerged around 1900, it became a commodity that was available in almost equal amounts throughout the world. At the same time, new technologies enabled the development of seemingly endless supplies of fossil fuel reserves. Energy consequently became a marginal theme in spatial planning. With the increasing energy crises our 21<sup>st</sup> century societies have to deal with, including concerns about climate change, this picture is changing rapidly. There is now both great potential and a critical need for (spatial) planners to become involved in addressing the production, transport and consumption of energy. Consequently, energy is emerging as a central theme in planning.

The 'Planning & Energy' track focuses on the ways in which planning can contribute to energy efficiency, reduced energy consumption and the development of alternative energy production. This raises issues at all scales of planning from transnational and national levels, through regional planning to the planning of settlements, neighbourhoods and detailed site layout and building design. In this, planning can for example contribute to reduced energy consumption through urban design and spatially linking urban functions. So instead of just looking at the design of individual dwellings, the urban fabric and regional organization of energy production and consumption emerge as themes. Examples include the use of excess heat from factories, energy plants, swimming pools and other functions by others such as houses and schools. More localised energy generation and supply is likely to regain its importance. Alongside this, the allocation and embedding of alternative energy production through for example wind farms, biomass and solar cells has important spatial planning implications. This illustrates how landscapes and cities will change as energy increasingly becomes a key parameter in decision making.

This illustrates the importance for planners to become involved in the management of economic, spatial and social processes to cope with the 21<sup>st</sup> century's energy and sustainability crises, both now and in the long term. Therefore, the 'Planning & Energy' track seeks to draw together the current state of the art in the planning community with the ambition to refine future research agendas and create a readily accessible overview of the key contributions the planning community can make to one of the central questions of our time.