



Clean energy for EU islands forum 2025

Agenda

THE ISLANDS FORMULA: BALANCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR THE 100% RENEWABLE GOAL

The **#CE4EUislands Forum 2025** will build on the Secretariat's ongoing technical assistance, reviewing initial results, challenges, and opportunities for replication on the path to 100% renewable energy islands. The event will examine these efforts through the lens of a fully sustainable transition.

Participants will explore some of the key activities driving the shift to a 100% renewable electricity mix for the *30 for 2030* islands, discussing how their communities are dealing with **the projects' social, environmental, technical, and economic dimensions**. Four thematic working groups will assess the gaps and the opportunities for replication of the projects receiving the Secretariat's technical assistance. The participants will interact around four thematic pillars - renewable energy generation, sustainable transport, reduction of energy consumption, and infrastructure and grids – while taking into consideration the four project dimensions. Particular attention will be devoted to the relations between clean energy projects and the environmental, social, and economic priorities of communities and governments and to what extent these should be balanced to achieve a **clean and just energy transition**.

Additionally, two other important Secretariat activities from the past year will be presented and discussed: the **Regulatory Inventory** and the **CE4EUI Marketplace**. The latter will also feature a panel discussion on project-investor matchmaking.

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European
Commission | 14-15 May 2025
São Miguel Island, Azores



DAY 1 | 14 May 2025

Registration

09:00 – 09:30

AZOT

Check-in for on-site participation

Welcome and objective setting

Welcoming of the participants from the Secretariat, DG ENER, and local hosts

09:30 – 10:15

AZOT

Jan Cornillie – Project Director, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat (3E)

- **DG ENER**, European Commission
- **Berta Cabral**, Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructure, Government of Azores
- **Paulo André**, Chairman of the Board & CEO, Electricidade dos Açores

10:15 – 10:40

AZOT

Keynote speech: Energy transition and public policies for the Portuguese islands

- **João Abel Peças Lopes**, Director of INESC TEC

10:40 – 11:00

AZOT

Introduction to the breakout sessions: balancing the social, environmental, technical and economic dimensions of projects on EU islands

- **Martina Cannata**, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat (3E)
- **Riccardo Novo**, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat (3E)

11:00 – 11:30

AZOT

Coffee Break and transfer to working groups

Working groups – The audience will split into two breakout sessions where social, environmental, technical and economic aspects of two different project categories will be addressed and discussed.

11:30 – 13:30

AZOT

Breakout session #1: Renewable energy generation

Moderation: **Clean energy for EU islands secretariat** (PoliTo, 3E)

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The decarbonisation of islands is primarily based on renewable energy generation, which has the potential to reduce the dependence on imported electricity and fossil fuels and to enhance energy security through a diversified energy mix. However, the transition to a fully renewable energy supply is challenging due to the unique conditions of islands, where many social and environmental receptors often coexist in limited space. All this makes it fundamental - even more than on the mainland - to holistically analyse renewable energy projects under their four key dimensions (economic, environmental, technical, and social), looking for a balance between competing priorities and challenges.

This session will begin by exploring the benefits and costs of the energy transition and its expected evolution. Community representatives from three islands under the 30 for 2030 initiative will then present some of the projects being pursued, highlighting the key value drivers behind their development and the results achieved so far. The opportunities and remaining gaps for scale-up and replication will be discussed interactively with the participants, with the goal of exchanging experiences and raising awareness on the importance of holistic planning and design of renewable energy projects. The participants will then take part in a gamified interactive panel, where they will be asked to define key values and make decisions in real-case situations under multiple and sometimes conflicting objectives.

Rapporteur: **Claire Helly** (CPMR)

Breakout session #2: Sustainable transport

Moderation: **Clean energy for EU islands secretariat** (DNV, EISEA, UIB)

Islands and the people who live on them are by nature dependent on the means of transportation connecting them to other islands and the mainland, both by air and sea. This dependency comes at the cost of significant greenhouse gas emissions. The same holds for local land transport, which relies almost exclusively on combustion engines and thus on (imported) fossil fuels. Hence, there is another double burden for the emissions accounting of islands.

Nevertheless, there are positive signs amongst the CE4EU community that show a pivot towards green mobility on, to and from islands. What can be

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learned from the cases of Giglio and Giannutri, Saaremaa, the Azores and others?

In this session, we will listen to islanders who are making a difference by rethinking mobility and shifting to low- or no-carbon transport. The session will be introduced with a big-picture presentation that will set the scene: What are the emissions associated with island-related transport? What are our options for bending the curve? What are the sticking points that keep us in the present? But we will not only listen. Through active and dynamic discussions, we will deepen our shared understanding of key aspects of island transportation, including i) Electrification of private transport, ii) Optimising island logistics, iii) Modal shifts, including cycling, shared transport, and walking; iv) Greening public transport and ferries; v) Sustainable aviation.

In our discussions, we will use the lenses of the environment, society, technology, and the economy to clearly understand the opportunities and caveats associated with achieving affordable and accessible decarbonised transport on islands. We will work towards clear, experience-based messages that can be replicated across all EU islands.

Rapporteur: TBD

13:30 – 14:30
AZOT

Lunch break

14:30 – 14:45
AZOT

Update of the regulatory inventory

Presentation of the regulatory inventory as a tool to support communities in developing energy projects.

14:45 – 15:00
AZOT

Introduction to the site visits

Presentation of the site visits for the two days.

15:00 – 18:30
AZOT

Site visits

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DAY 2 | 15 May 2025

09:00 – 09:30
AZOT

Registration

Check-in for on-site participation.

Business plans and financing schemes for clean energy projects

This session will begin with a brief overview of the Marketplace, highlighting its purpose and how islanders can use it effectively.

Following this, three panellists will share their experiences in:

09:30 – 10:30
AZOT

- *Developing market-ready business models for clean energy projects on islands,*
- *Structuring the financial aspects of these projects,*
- *Securing funding for their implementation.*

After short presentations from the panellists, the moderator will facilitate an interactive discussion, allowing the audience to engage with the speakers and exchange insights. Particular attention will be devoted to the specific risks connected to implementing projects on islands and to the measures for their early assessment and strategic management.

10:30 – 11:00
AZOT

Coffee Break and transfer to working groups

Working groups – *The audience will split into two breakout sessions where social, environmental, technical and economic aspects of two different project categories will be addressed and discussed.*

Breakout session #1: Energy efficiency

Moderation: **Clean energy for EU islands secretariat** (Econoler, ESIN, Island Movement)

11:00 – 13:00
AZOT

The breakout session on energy efficiency will bring experience from different islands on how to decrease energy demand in existing buildings in different climatic zones. Energy efficiency measures applicable to existing buildings include reduction of heat and cooling demand such as wall insulation, high-performance heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting, and

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domestic hot water equipment such as energy-efficient heat pumps and LED, as well as control and management of energy using control systems.

Firstly, as an ice breaker, each participant will state their island and obstacles to energy efficiency or a key question about obstacles in one sentence (which will be used later in the session). Then, islanders will present examples of activities developed to improve energy efficiency (EE) on their island. Public building decarbonisation roadmaps will be presented for two Croatian islands. The roadmaps are designed to guide the integration of EE and renewable energy (RE) in public buildings through strategic planning, resource management, and performance evaluation, fostering long-term sustainability and substantial energy savings. Energy efficiency measures for traditional buildings in Ireland will also be explored, with a focus on the Aran Islands, which feature a rich portfolio of historic stone buildings, where energy efficiency interventions are requested to be strictly compatible with the protection of the architectural heritage.

The different examples set the scene for a "world café" approach during which the participants will be separated into four groups around a table each and will work on identifying questions and corresponding mitigation strategies on technical/economic/ social/ environmental issues related to EE, taking turns to move through each table.

Finally, the moderator(s) closes the session, recapping the main questions/solutions discussed for each of the four issues explored above. If time allows, participants will go through a quick checkout to see if their initial questions have been answered.

Rapporteur: TBD

Breakout session #2: Infrastructure and grids

Moderation: **Clean energy for EU islands secretariat** (DAFNI, Th!nk-E, SEI)

Island grids must undergo a comprehensive transformation to achieve high shares of renewable energy while maintaining the reliable, efficient, safe and economically feasible operation of the electrical systems. Key interventions in this direction include: i) the enhancement of interconnection infrastructure to ensure grid stability and security of supply; ii) the expansion of grid capacity to accommodate RES penetration and increasing electrification demands; iii) the adoption of smart metering infrastructure and the digitalisation of grids for real-time monitoring and

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efficient load management; iv) the deployment of energy storage systems to effectively balance supply and demand. These interventions will be analysed through the lens of key projects from the 30 for 2030 islands, and their respective technical, economic, environmental and social challenges will be addressed.

A keynote presentation will set the stage for the session, describing the challenges and best practices to operate the island grids of the Azores archipelago. The Azorean experience will be then complemented with that of selected projects from the 30 islands, opening a discussion on their potential replicability to overcome similar challenges among EU islands. In the second part of the session, participants will be divided into four tables, each focusing on a different area of grid interventions. A moderator will guide the table to understand the technical, economic, environmental and social challenges behind the specific intervention and develop potential useful recommendations. A grid expert, bearing hands-on experience in intervention, will provide feedback and insights throughout the process. Each table will present its main results at the end of the session.

Rapporteur: TBD

13:00 – 14:00
AZOT

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00
AZOT

Plenary discussion on the social, environmental, technical and economic aspects of the four project categories studied

Plenary discussion on the outputs from the working groups of the two days. The rapporteurs from the four breakout sessions will share the identified main challenges and possible solutions for addressing the four project dimensions. Considerations about differences, similarities and best practices will be drawn to conclude the session.

15:00 – 15:30
AZOT

Conclusion of the conference

15:30 – 19:00
AZOT

Site visits