



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 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 considering the four project dimensions. Particular attention will be devoted to the relations between clean energy projects and communities' and governments' environmental, social, and economic priorities 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.

Clean energy for EU islands **FORUM 2025**



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

DAY 0 | 13 May 2025

WELCOME RECEPTION

The welcome reception will take place in the Greenhouse of the José do Canto Botanical Garden.

It was created in mid-19th Century by José do Canto (1820-1898) one of São Miguel's wealthiest figures at that time and nature lover. Located only 20 minutes walking from the historic centre, it offers a jungle-like atmosphere and shelters over 3,000 exotic plant species, many planted as early as 1840.

19:00 – 22:00
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Agenda:

19:00-19:15 - Arrival

19:15-19:30 - Welcome

19:30-19:50 – The Azores: That's us

20:00-22:00 - Get together with finger food



JOSÉ DO CANTO GARDEN GREENHOUSE | [R. JOSE DO CANTO, 9500-076 PONTA DELGADA, PORTUGAL](https://www.rjose.docanto.gov.pt/)

Clean energy for EU islands FORUM 2025



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São Miguel Island, Azores

DAY 1 | 14 May 2025

 **Venue:** Octant Hotel Ponta Delgada | [Av. Dr. João Bosco Mota Amaral, 4, 9500-771 Ponta Delgada](#)

Registration

09:00 – 09:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Check-in for on-site participation



OCTANT HOTEL | PLENARY ROOM: SÃO MIGUEL

Welcome and objective setting

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

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

09:30 – 10:15
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

- **Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Muñoz**, Head of Unit Consumers, Local Initiatives, Just Transition, DG ENER, European Commission
- **Paulo André**, Chairman of the Board & CEO, Electricidade dos Açores
- **Berta Cabral**, Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructure, Government of Azores



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

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

10:15 – 10:40
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

João Abel Peças Lopes, Director of INESC TEC



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

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

10:40 – 11:00
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

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



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL

11:00 – 11:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Coffee Break and transfer to working groups

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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: Renewable energy generation

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

Rapporteur: **Claire Helly**, Maesha project representative and Policy and Project Officer, CPMR Islands Commission

The decarbonisation of islands relies heavily on renewable energy, offering benefits like reduced dependence on imports and improved energy security, but it also presents unique challenges due to limited space and competing social and environmental factors. This session will explore island energy projects' costs, benefits, and progress. Participants will engage in an interactive, gamified panel to experience real-world decision-making and highlight the need for holistic planning across economic, environmental, technical, and social dimensions.

[Click here for a detailed description and agenda.](#)

11:30 – 13:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)



OCTANT HOTEL – BREAKOUT ROOM

Breakout session #2: Sustainable transport

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

Rapporteur: **Joana F. Rita**, Regional Director for Energy, Government of the Azores

Island transport is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions due to reliance on fossil-fuel-based air, sea, and land travel, placing a double burden on emissions accounting. This session will highlight inspiring examples of green mobility transitions from islands like Giglio, Saaremaa, and the Azores while engaging participants in dynamic discussions on decarbonising transport through electrification, modal shifts, sustainable logistics, and policy solutions viewed through environmental, social, technological, and economic lenses.

[Click here for detailed description and agenda.](#)



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL

13:30 – 14:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Lunch break

Views / Videos from the islands

Featuring: Bornholm und Borkum

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Update of the regulatory inventory

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

14:30 – 14:45
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Mojtaba Eliassi, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat (Th!nk E)



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

Introduction to the site visits

Presentation of the site visits for the two days.

14:45 – 15:00
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

Site visits

Group 1: **Caldeirão Battery Energy Storage System**

It is a very recent installation (2024) of a storage system based in lithium-ion batteries. It consists of 8 modules with a total capacity of 20 MW / 20MWh (end of life values) and it is connected to the 60 kV transmission grid of São Miguel Island. Its main purposes are to increase the stability of the electricity production system of São Miguel Island and to introduce greater flexibility to allow further integration of renewable production.

Caldeirão Diesel Power Plant

It is the largest power plant in the Azores and the most important on the island of São Miguel, and it has been in operation since 1987. It's a heavy fuel oil operated thermal plant, with 8 generators, in a total production capacity of 98 MW. Last year it was responsible for more than 55% of the overall production of the island.

15:00 – 18:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Group 2: **Pico Vermelho Geothermal Power Plant**

It's one of the two geothermal power plants of the island of São Miguel. It has an installed capacity of 10 MW and has been in operation since 2007 with great performance results. Last year this power plant was responsible for more than 20% of the overall electric production of the island and it is installed in the location of the pilot project which introduced the geothermal production in the Azores back in the 80's.

The site visit will be made possible by EDA - Electricidade dos Açores.



SITE VISIT | TRANSFER FROM OCTANT HOTEL

Dinner

There will be shuttle from Ponta Delgada to the Restaurant.

20:00 – 23:00
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)



RESTAURANTE Q'ÉNOSSO | [AV. DA CIÊNCIA BETA 8 9560. LAGOA. PORTUGAL](#)

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DAY 2 | 15 May 2025



Venue: Octant Hotel Ponta Delgada | [Av. Dr. João Bosco Mota Amaral, 4, 9500-771 Ponta Delgada](#)

09:00 – 09:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Registration

Check-in for on-site participation.

Business plans and financing schemes for clean energy projects

This session will introduce the Marketplace and explore how islanders can use it, with panellists discussing clean energy business models, financing strategies, and risk management for island projects.

09:30 – 10:30
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Amandine Gal, Clean energy for EU islands secretariat (Econoler)

- **Jean-Gabriel Steinmetz**, Director Market Access & Sales, Corsica Sole
- **Anton Ebersberg Self**, Director, Azores PV & BESS / Força Açoreana S.A.
- **Tiago Simões de Almeida**, Head of Specialized Lending, Banco BPI



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

10:30 – 11:00
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

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)

Rapporteur: **Nicole Versijp**, DG ENER, European Commission

11:00 – 13:00
AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

This breakout session on energy efficiency will showcase island experiences in reducing energy demand in existing buildings across various climates, including strategies like insulation, efficient systems, and smart controls, while addressing traditional architecture's unique challenges. Through presentations, group discussions, and a "world café" format, participants will explore technical, economic, social, and environmental aspects of energy efficiency, culminating in a recap of key insights and solutions.

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[Click here for detailed description and agenda.](#)



OCTANT HOTEL – BREAKOUT ROOM

Breakout session #2: Infrastructure and grids

Moderation: **Clean energy for EU islands secretariat** (DAFNI, Th!nk E, SEI)
Rapporteur: **Konstantinos Vlachos**, Special Service for the Coordination of Planning, Evaluation and Implementation, General Secretariat of Public Investments & PA, Ministry of National Economy and Finance (Greece)

This session will explore how island grids can be transformed to support high shares of renewable energy while ensuring stability, efficiency, and affordability through interventions like grid expansion, interconnections, digitalisation, and energy storage. Using case studies from the Azores and the 30 for 2030 islands, participants will engage in moderated group discussions to identify challenges and develop recommendations across technical, economic, environmental, and social dimensions, with expert feedback guiding the process.

[Click here for a detailed description and agenda](#)



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL

13:00 – 14:00

AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Lunch break

Views / Videos from the islands

Featuring: Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, San Pietro

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

There will be a plenary discussion on the outputs from the two-day working groups. The rapporteurs from the four breakout sessions will share the identified main challenges and possible solutions for addressing the four project dimensions. To conclude the session, considerations about differences, similarities, and best practices will be drawn.

14:00 – 15:00

AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

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

- **Joana F. Rita**, Regional Director for Energy, Governments of the Azores
- **Claire Helly**, Maesha project representative and Policy and Project Officer, CPMR Islands Commission
- **Nicole Versijp**, DG ENER, European Commission

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- **Konstantinos Vlachos**, Special Service for the Coordination of Planning, Evaluation and Implementation, General Secretariat of Public Investments & PA, Ministry of National Economy and Finance (Greece)



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SÃO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

15:00 – 15:30

AZOST Local time
(CEST-2)

Conclusion of the conference

Site visits

Group 1: **Pico Vermelho Geothermal Power Plant**

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