

Clean energy for EU islands **FORUM 2025**



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



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.

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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

Agenda:

19:00-19:15 - Arrival

19:15-20:00 – Welcome & presentation

20:00-21:30 - 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/)

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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 (UTC-1)

Check-in for on-site participation

 OCTANT HOTEL | PLENARY ROOM: SAO 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 (UTC-1)

- **Alejandro Ulzurrun De Asanza Y Munoz**, 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 SAO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

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

10:15 – 10:40
AZOST (UTC-1)

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

 OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SAO 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 (UTC-1)

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

 OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SAO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

11:00 – 11:30
AZOST (UTC-1)

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**, 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 (UTC-1)

 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 SAO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

13:30 – 14:30
AZOST (UTC-1)

Lunch break

Views / Videos from the islands

Featuring:

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14:30 – 14:45
AZOST (UTC-1)

Update of the regulatory inventory

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

14:45 – 15:00
AZOST (UTC-1)

Introduction to the site visits

Presentation of the site visits for the two days.



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SAO 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 (UTC-1)

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

20:00 – 23:00
AZOST (UTC-1)

Dinner

There will be shuttle from Ponta Delgada to the Restaurant.



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 (UTC-1)

Registration

Check-in for on-site participation.

09:30 – 10:30
AZOST (UTC-1)

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. The panellists will then share their experiences developing market-ready business models for clean energy projects on islands, structuring the financial aspects, and securing funding for their implementation. Particular attention will be devoted to the risks connected to implementing projects on islands and the measures for their early assessment and strategic management.

- **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 SAO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

10:30 – 11:00
AZOST (UTC-1)

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.

11:00 – 13:00
AZOST (UTC-1)

Breakout session #1: Energy efficiency

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

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

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,

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economic, social, and environmental aspects of energy efficiency, culminating in a recap of key insights and solutions.

[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: **Vasiliki Pantelopoulou**, Secretary General of Partnership Agreement (ESPA), Ministry of Economy and Finance of 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 SAO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

13:00 – 14:00
AZOST (UTC-1)

Lunch break

Views / Videos from the islands

Featuring:

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 (UTC-1)

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

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

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- **Vasiliki Pantelopoulou**, Secretary General of Partnership Agreement (ESPA), Ministry of Economy and Finance of Greece



OCTANT HOTEL – PLENARY ROOM SAO MIGUEL & LIVESTREAM

15:00 – 15:30
AZOST (UTC-1)

Conclusion of the conference

Site visits

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15:30 – 19:00
AZOST (UTC-1)