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Towards a Local Energy and Climate Pact 2.0 between the Government of Flanders and the Flemish local governments

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1 LOCAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PACT 2.0

Flanders and local governments have joined forces to make the necessary transition in energy and climate policy a reality. We started the LECP 1.0 to build a new ecosystem, where local stakeholders, local governments and the Flemish level work more closely together. By the end of October 2021, 293 of the 300 local governments had signed the LECP 1.0. Due to the more stringent European Climate ambitions (Fit for 55), the Government of Flanders decided in November 2021¹ on a package of additional measures to reduce CO₂ emissions more substantially. This included reaffirming the role of local governments and putting forward new objectives. The Flemish government, in consultation with VVSG, subsequently went through a preparatory process, and the result was this updated LECP 2.0, with following additional climate measures.

Below is the overview of commitments already adopted in the context of LECP 1.0 and the new commitments of LECP 2.0.

Local governments have committed to:

- Signing and elaborating the Mayors' Covenant 2030;
- Achieve average annual primary energy savings of at least 2.09% in local government buildings (including technical infrastructure, excluding immovable heritage)
- Achieve a 40% reduction in CO₂ emissions from local government buildings and technical infrastructure by 2030 compared to 2015²;
- Ensure that all public lighting is with LEDs by 2030;
- Increase support for renewable energy, do not introduce a tax on renewable energy installations and phase out the existing taxes, such as the tax on wind turbine pylons, by 2025 at the latest;
- Draft local heat and demolition policies;
- Encourage citizens, businesses and associations to work with local government to achieve the specific, visible targets from the 4 working areas of the Pact.

Commitments already adopted in the

context of LECP 1.

¹ VR 2021 0511 DOC.1237/1Additional Climate measures

² The monitoring of the objective for the public building stock was sent via letter (23/11/21) to all local governments, by VEKA and the Agency for Home Affairs. Due to the lack of relevant consumption data for 2015, the reference year for the CO2 reduction target from the Coalition Agreement and the LECP 1.0 (-40% by 2030 compared to 2015) was changed to 2019, which is also the reference year for the energy savings target. As such, the stated CO2 reduction was recalculated proportionately, with the objective being -29.3% by 2030 compared to 2019. The more stringent target from this LECP 2.0 (-55% by 2030 compared to 2015) was recalculated proportionately to reference year 2019, for the same reason and in the same way. This objective is therefore -40.3% by 2030 compared to 2019. An overview of the method for data gathering and monitoring can be found here: <u>opzet_monitoring_co2_reductie_en_energiebesparing_patrimonium_gemeenten.pdf</u> (vlaanderen.be).

Local governments have committed to:

- The CO₂ reduction target for local government buildings and technical infrastructure will be raised from -40% to -55% of CO₂ emissions by 2030 compared to 2015 (see footnote 2). The scope of this CO₂ reduction target has also been extended to local government mobility.³ The primary energy savings target will be made more stringent, a 3% reduction per year from 2023.
 - The objective must be examined at the entity level and not per individual building or vehicle, in order to fulfil the long-term climate objectives in the most cost-effective way.
- No new decision of principle by the board of Aldermen or the Municipal council regarding local taxes on ELIA electricity pylons and trenches;
- Adapted objectives in the 4 working areas:
 - New challenge under Working area 2:
 - 25 fossil-free renovations among the 50 collective renovations per 1,000 housing units by 2030.
 - Residents of 50 in every 1,000 housing units are invited to a climate table to discuss a district-based approach (with a focus on synergy between the 4 working areas) by the end of 2024.
 - New challenge under Working area 3:
 - 1.5 (semi-) public charging equivalents per 100 inhabitants (99,000 charging points (CPE)) by 2030.

³ VEKA and the Agency for Home Affairs will communicate a modified working method for data gathering and monitoring as regards extending the scope to 'local government mobility' included in this LECP 2.0.

Commitments already adopted in the context of LECP 1.0

The Flemish government has committed to:

- Providing professional support to local governments through the Netwerk Klimaat (Climate Network), as stipulated in the subsidy decision and work programmes;
- Through other partners within the Flemish government (e.g., the Flemish Agency for Public Sector Energy Saving (VEB) with the SURE2050 project for the public building stock) provide local governments with project-based support;
- Work actively with local governments to eliminate the potential obstacles faced by local governments in realising the ambitions of the LECP;
- Playing an exemplary role and convincing relevant actors to sign the LECP;
- In consultation with civil society, research institutions and the various sectoral organisations, follow up and streamline the mutual commitments in the context of the LECP;
- Actively and systematically promote the policy measures to local governments (and/or other actors) envisaged by the Flemish, Federal and European budgets, which can be useful in realising the objectives of the LECP. This will be fleshed out where possible under potential contribution of the Flemish government (in Chapter 4 of the LECP 1.0);
- Provide additional support for the climate pact actions of the municipalities who sign the Pact, in an additional annual budget of €10,000,000, as well as a fixed portion of the freely available funds within the Flemish Climate Fund. These budgetary commitments can be adapted according to the general budget policy.

The Flemish government has committed to:

- The increased objectives for the public building stock and mobility (CO2 reduction of 55% by 2030) as well as 3% annual primary energy savings also apply to the Flemish government;
- Regional coordination by Flanders (VR 2022 2502) for the European Mayors' Covenant to
 provide, inter alia, technical and strategic support to the signatory municipalities for the
 development, implementation and monitoring of their Sustainable Energy and Climate
 Action Plans (SECAPS);
- To support specific, practical solutions to barriers in pioneer cities and municipalities who have signed the LECP 2.0, the Agency for Home Affairs is facilitating a Working Platform. Agreed-on barriers are monitored frequently (at least annually) by the Government of Flanders for each competent policy area;
- Through the Climate Network, the Flemish government supports cities and municipalities in drawing up local heat plans and renovation strategies. In addition to the 'heat zoning inspiration map', all cities and municipalities will soon be able to use a 'start analysis local renovation strategy'. This is a graphical tool that will help local governments prioritise local renovation and demolition policies;
- Building further on the start-up analysis of the Climate Network, a "District Renovation Tool" is proposed to local governments and their partners to flesh out and follow up collective renovation pathways up to and including implementation, using data. This tool can be useful for organising district-based climate tables;
- Strengthening the core funding for Energy Houses;
- The launch of the "My Rebuilding Premium" and the "My Rebuilding Loan" and the strengthening of the distress purchase fund. As such, a balanced mix of activating private capital is pursued via financing instruments (premiums (including the EPC label premium) and long-term loans with incentives for comprehensive renovations via the interest-free renovation credit (via banks)), taking away the burden for people carrying out renovations (via Energy Houses and BENOvation coaches) and obligations (such as the non-residential renovation obligation from 1/1/22 and residential renovation obligation from 1/1/23, public and government buildings must achieve a minimum EPC label by 2028 and all non-residential buildings by 2030⁴);
- Continued focus on supporting local governments in achieving state of the art cycling infrastructure;

⁴ EPC NR Decision, VR 2021 0705 DOC.0489/1BIS

The Flemish government has committed to:

- The need for a tax shift between the energy vectors (easing electricity bills by shifting costs to fossil energy vectors) is recognised in principle by the Government of Flanders. The first steps have been taken to this end (purchase of green energy certificates from the system operators, lowering the quota obligation from suppliers, scrapping the cost of public lighting, reimbursement of RUE premiums via the Flemish Resilience Fund, the cost of the minimum supply of natural gas and discount vouchers for electric household appliances via the energy fund). Nonetheless, it is the explicit ambition of Minister Zuhal Demir, and the Government of Flanders as a whole, to continue the efforts to remove as many additional costs from the electricity bill as possible. In order to shape a socially just tax shift, the Government of Flanders is considering an exception to the 'non bis in idem' law. There is a precedent in this regard, in the method used for mineral oil. The consultations will continue with the Federal Government on this matter. To make the exception to the 'non bis in idem' law possible, a cooperation agreement will be drafted between the Federal government and Flemish Government, in which agreements will be made regarding the outlines of this socially just tax shift from electricity to the various fossil energy vectors. VVSG will be kept informed of progress.
- At the end of 2024, LECP 1.0 and 2.0 will be evaluated on whether the objectives have been achieved, and the envisaged funding. By then, we will also have a better idea of how the structural tax shift will be implemented (see commitment above). Based on this analysis and following further consultation with VVSG, a new package may emerge with (additional) funding on the one hand and new commitments on the other, including the request to phase out the existing levies on ELIA's electricity pylons and trenches by 1/1/2026;
- A one-off additional budgetary stimulus of €22.5 million for the signatories of the LECP 2.0, to support the more stringent ambitions of the plan during this legislature. These funds are distributed as follows: €8.75 million for 2022, €8.75 million for 2023 and €5 million for 2024. These commitments may be made within the limits of the funds envisaged and made available to this end in the budget of the Flemish Community and may be adjusted according to general budget policy.

2 THE WHYS AND HOWS OF THE LECP 2.0

The recent IPCC report $(2022)^5$ and the ambition of the European Fit for 55 package⁶, has meant that, one year after the launch of the first LECP, we already have to think about the follow-up steps. The CO_2 reductions are not going fast enough, climate change is affecting us faster and more intensely than expected, and the choices made in this decade will be decisive in meeting the Paris targets and in starting the transition to a climate-neutral society.

At the end of December 2020, the European Council laid down a binding EU target of a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU of at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990. The European Commission then published its Fit for 55 Package on 14 July 2021, which proposed stepping up the Belgian target to 47% by 2030 compared to 2005. Negotiations on this proposal for more stringent targets are currently taking place at European level. On 5 November 2021, the Government of Flanders adopted a range of additional Climate Measures to reduce CO_2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 2005.

The Government of Flanders plans to update the 2021-2030 VEKP (Flemish Energy and Climate Plan) in the spring of 2023. The new ambitions included in this LECP 2.0 will be a part of it.

The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly visible and at the same time more and more alarming: climate disruption increases the likelihood of extreme weather events, including drought⁷ or extreme rainfall. These extreme weather events could potentially affect a lot of people and have a significant economic impact⁸. Moreover, no one could have predicted the crisis in Ukraine and the out-of-control energy prices in 2022. We will effectively reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, and that opens new doors. A strong climate policy implies major challenges as well as benefits in terms of an inclusive, economically vibrant and diverse society that promotes well-being for all.

Of course, we don't have to start from scratch today. 293 local governments started with the first version of the LECP. 64 stakeholders⁹ have indicated that they want to support local governments in this challenge and are already making it happen on the ground every day. This dynamism has prompted a wide range of actions. The merit of the LECP 1.0 is that we moved the climate challenge away from something abstract and overwhelming, and instead made it concrete and mobilising. The tangible targets mean that every citizen, association or business can ask themselves the question: what can I, on my plot or within my reach, do for these objectives? The LECP also maintains a complementary focus on realising the objectives, to bring about the necessary acceleration through collective solutions. For example, more and more partners and broader groups within society are getting on board. The EU, as

^s Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (ipcc.ch)

⁶ Fit for 55 - The EU's plan for a green transition - Consilium (europa.eu)

⁷ One of the explanatory mechanisms for this is that as temperatures rise, the warmer air can hold more water vapour before it becomes saturated, and it will take longer before it rains. However, once it does rain, the rainfall can be more intense, with increased risk of floods.

 $^{^{8}}$ For example, a study by Minister Peeters estimated the damage if a similar rain event as the water bomb that fell in the Vesdre valley in Wallonia in July 2021 were to hit Flanders. Around 86,000 homes would be affected and total damage would reach &1 billion.

⁹ An overview can be found at <u>https://www.vvsg.be/kennisitem/vvsg/ondersteuners-klimaatpact</u>

expressed by European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans, also agrees that the importance of local dynamism can create a lot of enthusiasm, and the LECP is spreading as a good example across Europe¹⁰.

We will continue down this path, but we also need to monitor whether the systemic transition toward the 2050 objectives is also gathering enough momentum. That is why the focus of this LECP 2.0 is clear: we are going to accelerate the phasing-out of our dependence on fossil fuels, district by district and sector by sector. It is not an easy message to communicate that the 'quick wins' are not enough. Looking for limited efficiency gains at the building or vehicle level will not get us to a fossil-free outcome on time. The potential for lock-in risks, cost inefficiencies and continued dependency on fossil fuels must be avoided. For this reason, we are focusing the stronger ambitions primarily on the mitigation working areas, and are opting for an additional ambition within energy saving, fossil-free buildings and mobility, including extending charging infrastructure¹¹.

Recommendation implementation of CO_2 reduction target in the public building stock and vehicle fleet

Public buildings have an important exemplary function. It is strongly recommended that the first step is to work on a real estate strategy, which responds to various questions such as: which buildings do we want to keep for the long term and which buildings can be disposed of? In this regard, see the templates made available by the SURE2050 project, used by 102 public organisations in Flanders. By optimising the available space and taking a more multifunctional approach, a local government can sell buildings, creating financial breathing space to make comprehensive renovations to the strategic building stock (which needs to be maintained). With this strategic building stock, it is then more cost-effective to jump sufficiently far toward fossil-free buildings in one go, rather than renovating in several rounds. As such, the 2030 target, set at -55% compared to 2015 in this LECP 2.0, can be interpreted as an equivalent proportion of buildings (to be calculated based on CO₂ emissions from the public building stock, but for example (indicative): Immediately renovate 20 buildings (from the public building stock of 50 buildings) to be fossil-free. The same goes for the extension to mobility, with at least half of journeys also being made fossil-free by 2030. This approach generates less risk of lock-in and more guarantees of achieving the final outcome.

At the same time, the focus of this LECP 2.0 is more on the synergies between the working areas which, with a qualitative spatial perspective, can be jointly implemented at the district level. For example, shared mobility reduces the need for parking, which means we can depave and add greenery (urban nature). This combined with a district renovation that includes trees, natural beds, rainwater collection and façade greenery can help transform the district. This will then prompt an evolution toward more connection and cohesion in the district; where people are proud of their joint efforts towards the climate transition.

¹⁰ View the message from Frans Timmermans to the signatories of the LECP <u>https://lokaalbestuur.vlaanderen.be/lekp</u>

¹¹ In April 2022, the Flemish CPT vision was published, in which Flanders adopted 3 complementary strategies for the rollout of charging infrastructure. You can find more information here: CPT Vision 2030 via https://beslissingenvlaamseregering.vlaanderen.be/document-view/608A8713364ED90008000A3E

To support specific, practical solutions to barriers in pioneer cities and municipalities who have signed the LECP 2.0, the Agency for Home Affairs is facilitating a Working Platform. The focus of this initiative is heightened collaboration between local governments and knowledge partners (including Team Flemish Government Architect, Netwerk Klimaat, Urban Policy Team, Flemish Cities Knowledge Centre, Stroomgroepen and various other Flemish entities and organisations) on shared challenges and breakthroughs regarding a district-focused, fossil-free approach. The Government of Flanders had already committed to actively work on the agreed-on barriers faced by local governments in the four working areas. A process will be started with the signatories of the LECP 2.0 to facilitate a complementary working platform based on the barriers they identified.

Some examples:

- A well-devised charging plan combined with a vision for parking in the future and modal shift in the relevant district/city area,
- The split incentive problem between tenants and landlords and the examination of so-called building-based financing,
- Approach to energy poverty,
- Organising the unburdening of people carrying out renovations (Energy Houses, ESCOs) and collective investment models in district renovation projects.

In addition, as mentioned above, there are 64 support organisations ready to assist local governments in realising their projects. As the pandemic put a stop to the signing event with the 'supporter market' last year, we are currently looking at the possibility of specific working conferences where supply and demand, thinking and doing, ... are matched. Because here, too, we hope the LECP will strengthen the connection between the variety of partners and local governments in order to make the best use of the knowledge and expertise available. The presence of a large group of expert organisations that have signed the LECP provides various opportunities in this regard.

The cooperation between local governments has also taken more shape in the past year. Numerous intermunicipal partnerships have specifically organised themselves on rolling out local actions that fall within the realisation of the LECP 1.0. As already stated, the needs in one municipality for additional electric sharing systems may be more than what is planned, and the space for planting trees may be limited at the same time. In a neighbouring or nearby municipality(s), the situation may be the opposite. An objective of the four working areas that seems practically impossible in one municipality may be much more cost-effective and therefore also more readily achievable through cooperation with a neighbouring municipality. If neighbouring municipalities have naturally similar characteristics, cooperation in a broader area is also possible.

Finally, over the past year, the Climate Network (VVSG) has actively played its role as a partner for the LECP 1.0 on two strands:

1. Spreading good practices and knowledge

Through a series of webinars on the LECP and its working areas, the Climate Network highlighted various good examples. In the coming years, we will also bring together more local governments, to learn from each other. Thanks to the operational good practice database, this knowledge will also be made more accessible: <u>VVSG Knowledge network</u> Finally, frequently asked questions are recorded about how the LECP works: <u>Frequently asked questions on the climate pact</u> (vvsg.be).

2. Identifying obstacles

At the start of the LECP 1.0, the emphasis was placed on constructive interaction between the Flemish government and local governments. Obstacles identified in the implementation of the four working areas are best picked up as early as possible, addressed at the appropriate level and eliminated as much as possible. In 2022, Network Climate published¹² an overview of the identified barriers. These are incorporated into a Flemish "Barrier paper" in consultation with the responsible entity of the competent policy area. Updates are published on the progress on these barriers every 6 months. Through the Network Climate web form, local governments can provide input: Obstacles to the Local Energy and Climate Pact (office.com)

Specific example of new forms of collaboration: Climate tables 2.0

Together with the intermunicipal DDS, the Agency for Home Affairs and the Climate Network, we are testing a new form of participatory and activating climate tables. This involves getting as many LECP supporters, citizens, businesses, youth associations and various local organisations to look for how they can contribute to the working areas of the LECP. They then engage with local government with a view to creating opportunities to combine ("win-win's"): how can the commitments be multiplied if both parties go the extra mile?

Examples for local governments:

- Local government invests in renewing play structures in a residential district when a district action results in building façade gardens or launching sharing mobility;
- When a youth movement organises a campaign to plant a tree for each member, the local government jumps in to invest in a mobile PV installation for when they go camping.
- Local government provides logistical, communication or organisational support for the local nature association to find enough helping hands for afforestation works.

¹² See <u>20220407_Knelpuntennota klimaatbeleid lokaal energie_def.pdf</u> (vvsg.be)

3 SUPPLEMENT TO THE 4 CONCRETE WORKING AREAS

Supplements relating to the LECP 1.0 are highlighted **in bold**.

3.1 WORKING AREA 1: LET'S PLANT A TREE (GREENING)

3.1.1 Objective 2030

- One additional tree per person in Flanders by 2030 (+6.6 million additional trees from 2021 up to 2030)¹³
- 1/2 metre of additional hedge or façade garden planting by each person in Flanders by 2030 (an additional 3,300 km from 2021 up to 2030)
- One additional natural green bed per 1,000 inhabitants by 2030 (= 6,600 beds of 10 m² from 2021 up to 2030)¹⁴

Trees, hedges, façade gardens and flower beds that are monitored under this objective will be counted from 2021 to 2030 and can be realised jointly (with different local governments), whereby - as an average - the above-mentioned targets will be met.

3.1.2 Added value of citizens

- Green-blue veining
- Reduce heat stress through shade and cooling spots
- Promote biodiversity
- Healthier air
- Greener appearance (visually appealing)

3.1.3 Added value of local authorities

- Healthier and more pleasant living environment
- Exemplary role can be important local catalyst
- Initiatives can connect residents
- Initiatives may free up additional time within a technical department (natural greenery beds require less maintenance)
- Short chain can be encouraged

¹³ These are trees standing on an area that does NOT meet the minimum area requirements of at least 10 m (width) x 10 m (length) that is required to be considered forest in the context of the forest objectives of the Government of Flanders. Trees planted in the context of compensation obligations are not counted. Trees can be planted on both public and private land.

⁴ There are currently many plots, parks and flowerbeds that are managed the traditional way. Short cut grass, possibly with some bedding plants. By making sure that there is less mowing and that there are e.g. wildflowers or specific plants, these can be turned into little rainforests for biodiversity. For example, the area around roundabouts, vacant plots next to public buildings and recreational areas. This has the immediate advantage that less manpower and hours of work are needed to maintain and manage it compared to a traditional greenery bed.

3.1.4 Potential contribution of local authorities

- Initiator or facilitator of different initiatives. Examples include making available or providing guidance in terms of planting ideally local trees, tile gardens, garden pavements, allotments, flower meadows, plantings and hedges, facilitating food- or picking forests, providing play forests, squirrel activities (first collecting seeds (e.g. acorns, beechnuts, etc.) and then sowing instead of planting) and providing natural burial sites.
- Facilitating can take the form of financial or logistical support, technical know-how and acquiring land or making it available.
- Drawing up a local adaptation plan (part of the Mayors' Covenant 2030) in which actions related to (sustainable) greening according to green-blue veining are structurally embedded and conscious choices are made (which types of planting or nature development, which location, etc. depending on heat control, water collection and infiltration and taking into account biodiversity) and taking into account the socio-economic impact.
- Through collaboration with the Association For Public Greenery (VVOG), Regional Landscapes or other actors, more advice and knowledge can be shared.

3.1.5 Potential contribution of the Flemish government

- Changes to regulations
- Making model regulations available (e.g. natural greenery beds or natural gardens (see initiative of ANB and Dep. Environment)
- Knowledge sharing by 'Knowledge Centre Urban Nature' (collaboration between AG Vespa city of Antwerp, Natuurpunt, ANB and Dep. Environment). This can also help in drawing up a local (city) adaptation plan.
- Supplement the 'Heritage Atlas' or other existing tools with a section on urban landscapes.
- 3.1.6 Contribution to the Flemish energy and climate plan 2030
 - Trees, hedges and natural greenery beds are important measures in the context of LULUCF, i.e. carbon capture in soil. Flanders has committed to the no debit rule, i.e., keeping carbon at the same level in the soil.

3.2 WORKING AREA 2: ENRICH YOUR DISTRICT (RENOVATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY)

3.2.1 Objective 2030

- 50 collectively organised, energy-saving renovations¹⁵ per 1,000 housing units from 2021 up to 2030¹⁶ **including 25 fossil-free**¹⁷ **renovations**.
- 50 out of every 1,000 housing units are invited to a climate table¹⁸ to discuss a districtbased approach (with a focus on making heat demand sustainable and the synergy between the 4 working areas) by the end of 2024.
- 1 cooperative/participatory renewable energy project per 500 residents by 2030 providing a total installed capacity of 216 MW from 2021 up to 2030 (+12,000 projects by 2030¹⁹)

3.2.2 Added value of citizens

- Upgrading of residential property, increasing value on the property market for sale and rental
- Optimising capital, because the return is higher compared to a savings account and more security vs. (current) financial markets
- Structural reduction of energy bill
- More residential and district comfort thanks to both energy-related interventions and more greening and depaving in the district.
- Limited burden thanks to guidance
- Participation projects: more involvement, knowledge sharing and ownership in local renewable energy

3.2.3 Added value of local authorities

- Identifying and tackling energy poverty
- **Optimal synergies between different working areas at the district level and** more attractive and liveable renovated districts (extra if also an approach to the public domain (e.g. pavement and cycling lanes) and greening.
- District-oriented approach helps connect residents in the district (social cohesion)

¹⁵ An energy-saving renovation equivalent consists of one of the following measures: roof, attic, floor, wall insulation, high-efficiency glazing, solar water heater, ventilation system, a heat pump and boiler. These can be encouraged by the 'neighbourhood premium for a collective renovation project' and may or may not result from the organised climate tables, renovations achieved thanks to the distress purchase fund and all other collectively organised renovations such as collaborations with Co-owners' association for apartment buildings. A renovation is collectively organised if 10 housing units take part (this does not have to be geographically demarcated) or when the co-owners' association decides.

⁶ Local governments are closest to citizens. They are therefore best placed to use participatory processes, such as climate tables, to convince citizens to get involved in district renovation programmes based on an approach of taking away the burden from the person carrying out the renovation. In this way, the focus is not only on supporting renovations when there is a transfer of property, but also renovations when the owners still live there.

¹⁷ Fossil-free renovations are considered in this context as homes where the energy needs for heating, cooling and domestic hot water are met through an electric heat pump (possibly supplemented by a heat pump boiler or solar water heater) or by connecting an energy-efficient heat grid (as defined in Energy Order - Article 1.11, 32/1°, a), b) and c). Apart from electricity - which may be (partly) of non-renewable origin depending on the energy contract - , no other fossil fuels are used. ¹⁸ A climate table involves inviting the residents in a district to think about the transformation of their district based on a concrete plan tailored to the district: use less energy, generate more renewable energy, the link with sustainable mobility, more façade greenery and depaving. The aim is therefore to optimise the synergy between the various working areas of this Pact, without losing sight of the focus on renovations. There is no minimum number of attendees per climate table, but ultimately 50 out of every 1,000 households will be invited to a climate table by the end of 2024.

¹⁹ 12,000 projects of 18 kWp underpin the estimate for 216 MW by 2030. Smaller projects can be clustered within and between municipalities. The reference is the number of completed projects registered on the Energy Map (Energiesparen.be) by the end of 2020.

- Private tertiary buildings as well as local government buildings, schools, healthcare facilities, cultural and sports facilities can also be involved in a (fossil-free) district renovation and participate in renewable energy projects. Their complementary usage profile (different opening times) may represent an opportunity for locally generated renewable energy (e.g. via energy sharing model). Public buildings should ideally be included in a long-term real estate strategy towards the -55% CO₂ target by 2030. This objective is examined at the entity rather than building level, so it is best to renovate a proportion of public buildings to be fossil-free in order to achieve the long-term goal as cost-effectively as possible.
- Participation in renewable energy projects can be increased (in addition to solar and wind, heat grids, biomass, hydropower, etc.) thereby increasing support for the energy transition
- Educational effect if solar panels on e.g. School buildings

3.2.4 Potential contribution of local authorities

- The renovation burden is taken away by:
 - Organising climate tables focused on specific accomplishments on the ground such as district renovations
 - For zones, districts or projects, the local heat plan can be further fleshed out using a participatory approach: see 2.3 heat guide
 https://www.energiesparen.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Warmtegids_2022-03-30.pdf.
 - If a future connection premium on existing heat grids is envisaged by the Government of Flanders, a local government can eliminate the barriers per district and organise collective connection campaigns.
 - Targeted calls for the participation of 40 houses from a given year of construction linked to a model renovation pathway (VCB)
 - Bringing together public and private partners around the renovation table, including third-party payer system providers, ESCO systems (performance contracts) and banks
 - \circ Supporting using key moments for the right level of (comprehensive) renovation
 - Recruit a renovation coach (supplement existing subsidy from the Flemish government collective renovation guidance grant, master plan for co-owners' associations)
 - Strengthen the existing support by local Energy Houses, Housing Counters and partner organisations (such as provincial Centres of Expertise for Sustainable Living and Building, non-profit organisations, etc.) through improved mutual cooperation and accessible and efficient services to citizens through a unified housing and energy counter. Citizens can ask all their questions related to housing and energy at this counter, and make appointments for energy advice and renovation guidance at home.
- Fiscal measures (reduction of property tax (for several years)) or premiums to encourage investment
- Adjust municipal regulations and town planning regulations so that it is possible to build an additional floor
- Adapt parcelling regulations to EPB requirements (e.g. gutter height of 6 metres is a barrier to energetic renovation (thicker insulation needed))

- Update charges linked to permits and implement fully-fledged chapter on blue-green veining without creating more barriers unnecessarily
- Make containers available during works
- Make public building stock available (directly or indirectly managed by local government such as schools, PSWC, church wardens, etc.) and infrastructure to cooperatives for solar, wind and energy saving projects. Municipality purchases green power locally. Citizen cooperative installs, finances, monitors and manages the installations. After 20 years, the installation is transferred to municipality. The same applies for cultural houses, care facilities, local associations, etc.
- More support for wind energy e.g. by actively providing objective information
- Citizen participation can be element of evaluation for tenders in renewable energy projects (solar, wind, hydro, biomass, energy conservation and heat grids)
- Future participation facilitating local energy communities (district-level energy sharing, encouraging participation of local businesses (sites), etc.)

3.2.5 Potential contribution of the Flemish government

- The neighbourhood premium for collective renovation projects has been enhanced:

 <u>https://www.vlaanderen.be/burenpremie-voor-collectief-renovatieproject</u>
- Incentives are envisaged for the renovation of apartments, by providing total advice by creating a master plan for <u>BENOvations</u> (call in summer 2022). With the introduction of the 'My Rebuilding Loan' from July 2022, co-owners' associations will also have access to interest-free credit that combines a long term (up to 25 years) with substantial loan amounts (€60,000 for the building, supplemented by €25,000 per residential unit).
- Connection premium for existing heat grids (2023)
- Strengthening of the rolling fund by €40 million (2021-2022 in the context of the Recovery Plan) for the energy-related renovations of housing purchased in distress:
 - o <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/noodkoopwoningen/projectoproepen</u>
 - The update for a revision of this tool is ongoing. The Government of Flanders has since approved in principle an increase in the maximum loan amount from €30,000 to €50,000 and an extension of the maximum term from 20 to 25 years.
- The facilitating framework for local energy communities is being further developed, whereby citizens, local governments and businesses can get organised for activities such as financing, production, flexibility services, energy sharing, energy storage, energy efficient services, etc.
 - Extension of the Green Power Call 2022-2024 by €10 million for specific subcategories for energy sharing within apartment buildings and energy communities (Green Power Call -Energy Savings). The funds will be auctioned every 2 years: the first time in October 2022.
 - Allocation of operational funds to REScoop Flanders to support the operations relating to energy communities.
- The Flemish Government itself is making efforts to save energy within its own building stock (3% primary energy savings per year, a carbon-neutral building stock by 2045). Entities work with Het Facilitair Bedrijf (Agency for Facility Operations) and the Flemish Agency for Public Sector Energy Saving (VEB), among others, to create real estate strategies, separate investments and energy performance contracts.

- Operations of the Flemish Energy Houses (including providing energy loans existing)
 - o <u>https://www.mijnenergiehuis.be/homepage</u>
 - Strengthening the basic funding of the Energy Houses: the increase in funds for the Energy Houses, from €4.886 million in 2021, to €6.486 million in 2022 and to €8.086 million in 2023 and 2024 was approved in principle.
- Renovation and energy premiums (increased)
 - From 1 October 2022, the My Renovation Premium for renovation and energy-saving investments can be applied for through a single online counter for investments made from January 2022 onwards. Depending on income, the intervention rises to 50% of invoices (excluding VAT) for target group²⁰ 3 and 35% for target group 2.
 - o <u>https://apps.energiesparen.be/subsidies/subsidiemodule</u>
- Increased insulation premium for works taking place at the same time as asbestos removal
 - o <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/nieuws/nieuwe-stimuli-voor-de-bouwsector-voor-wie-gaat-renoveren</u>
- General label premium:
 - o https://www.vlaanderen.be/epc-labelpremie-bij-energierenovatie
 - See also: the EPC label premium for all owners
 - https://www.energiesparen.be/nieuws/nieuwe-stimuli-voor-debouwsector-voor-wie-gaat-renoveren
- Interest-free renovation loan and energy loan+ for all new owners:
 - o <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/renteloos-renovatiekrediet</u>
 - o <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/nieuws/nieuwe-stimuli-voor-de-bouwsector-voor-wie-gaat-renoveren</u>
 - General: focus on the time the transaction takes place (transfer of property) as an important key moment to encourage comprehensive renovation
- The current 0% energy loan will be transformed into the **MijnVerbouwlening** (MyRenovationLoan), and the scope will also be broadened based on the income of the target groups and categories of works (for energy-related works and works focused on housing quality). The loan amount and term will be increased to €60,000 and extended to 25 years.
 - $\circ~$ Income of related target groups: middle (target group 2) and lower income (target group 3).
 - Landlords; provided there is lower rent or social rental (both at least 9 years).
- Support for solar installation smaller than 10 kW via premiums (new from 2021):

²⁰ Demarcation of target groups by income:

Income limits 2022	Target group 1	Target group 2	Target group 3
	Income from	Income up to	Income up to
Single person with 1 dependant or couple with no dependents	>€65,960	<=€65,960	<=€46,170
Increase per dependant.	+ €3,700	+ €3,700	+ €3,700
Single person	>€46,170	<=€46,170	<=€32,980

- o https://www.energiesparen.be/zonnepanelen/premie
- Support for solar installations above 25 kW via project call (new from 2021: <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/call-groene-stroom</u>
- Sufficient attention to strengthen the capacity of the building sector via targeted training (see Pact for Skills and action plan capacity building announced in the VEKP (Flemish Energy and Climate Plan))
- Continue to develop the facilitating framework for the implementing sector (construction industry, architects, ESCOs, etc.) to innovate and grow. One example is stimulating construction teams (one stop shops): when contractors and architects work together, knowledge is clustered, things speed up and transaction costs are reduced.
- Disseminate knowledge on 'climate performance contracts'; comprehensive renovations and renovating to new-build level, with a commitment of results in terms of residual energy consumption and CO2 emissions:
 - The <u>roundtable on climate performance contracts</u> that took place on 27 April 2022, in collaboration with VVSG
 - For DBFM-E: <u>Omslag Energie-effici\353ntie.pdf</u>) (vlaanderen.be)
 - For OEPC: ESCO charter and Energy Performance Contract | Flemish Agency for Public Sector Energy Saving - Efficient in energy
- The **District renovation tool** will integrate various data sources with tools (such as the heat zoning inspiration map and the resulting local heat plans (in the long run)) to facilitate collective renovations from A to Z. Besides making the renewable energy potential as well as the energy (including heat) demand transparent and accessible, concrete renovation pathways are proposed and followed up until the execution of the works. The various stakeholders in a collective renovation project will therefore be able to keep a transparent grip on the process. The district renovation tool will also be added as an authentic source for the Pact Portal and, where appropriate, links will be made with the path toward integrated housing and energy counters.

3.2.6 Contribution to the Flemish energy and climate plan 2030

- Collectively organised energy-saving renovations (50 per 1,000 housing units in 2030) roughly corresponds to making annual additional final energy savings of 555 GWh by 2030. These savings will help achieve the already approved VEKP and the long-term renovation strategy.
 - Making the requirements stricter, to 25 fossil-free renovations, roughly amounts to annual additional final energy savings of 1,367 GWh.
- One additional cooperative/participatory renewable energy project per 500 residents by 2030 (+12,000 projects). Assuming these solar projects are of average size, these 12,000 projects would account for an additional capacity of (at least) 216 MW. These savings will help achieve the already approved VEKP and the long-term renovation strategy.

3.3 WORKING AREA 3: EVERY DISTRICT SHARES (CARBON-FREE (SHARING) MOBILITY) AND IS SUSTAINABLY ACCESSIBLE

3.3.1 Objective 2030

- Per 1,000 inhabitants, 1 'access point'²¹ for a (carbon-free) sharing system by 2030 (=6,600 access points)
- Per 100 residents, 1.5 charging points by 2030 (=99,000 charging points²²)
- 1 m of new or structurally upgraded additional cycling paths per resident from 2021 up to 2030²³

3.3.2 Added value of citizens

- Optimise capital utilisation: there are costs even though car is parked on average 96% of the time
- Less hassle: no administrative burden, no maintenance costs, etc.
- Flexibility (choice of car, no searching for parking)
- Maintain comfort of available car (the more locations, the better)
- Freedom of choice in using the system, no obligation
- Extending it ensures accessibility of cars for all
- Safe and smooth bike connections reduce car traffic

3.3.3 Added value of local authorities

- Reducing land take (parking spaces in Flanders take up 24,000 hectares (more than Antwerp, incl. the port))
- Modal shift reinforced by the link with Hoppin points. 1 sharing car replaces 4 to 10 private cars.
- Mental shift, citizens think about alternatives
- CO2 reduction, cleaner air and quieter cars (carbon-free)
- Accessible mobility for all citizens
- Sharing systems at the periphery of the LEZ to bridge the transition to more public transport
- A good cycling path network adds value within local mobility policy

²¹ Access point means access to a shared car. Specifically, this can be both permanent sites and the setting up of a shared car system (this can include free floating and peer-to-peer systems) in the area. The objective also covers multimodal sharing systems. Ideally also with vehicles / cars that can also be used for longer distances.

On average, one access point would result in 2 sharing cars. In other words, there would be 13,200 sharing cars by 2030 compared to 3,886 in 2020, i.e. growth of 340%. In consultation with the sector, we are currently considering how to follow up growth, taking into account the variety of sharing systems.

²² This will be monitored using **Charge Point Equivalents (CPE**), where one CPE is defined in a logical weighting system, taking into account capacity and accessibility. A charging point with a limited capacity (3-11 kW) corresponds to 1 CPE, for a charging point with a higher capacity (22 kW) it is 2 CPE, for an AC fast charging point (43 kW) it is 4, for a DC fast charging point (50 kW to less than 150 kW) it is 5 and for an ultra fast charging point (150 kW and more) 10.

²³ Suggestion-lanes for cycling are not eligible. Construction and structural maintenance of cycling paths are however eligible.

3.3.4 Potential contribution of local authorities

- Draw up overview of gaps and potential sites (study) and develop an action plan.
- Share and electrify/decarbonise the government vehicle fleet (and make available for lease to residents). Examples include service vehicles shared with local residents and charged by solar power from public rooftops
- Develop tools to enable logistics, distribution and passenger transport actors to switch to a zero emission fleet
- Extend public reservation zones Hoppin points, with colourful signage
- Extend sharing systems by working together with specific target groups such as garages or promotion of private and participatory sharing platforms
 - More information at <u>www.autodelen.net</u>
- Extend (fast) charging points in (semi-)public areas, via in-house investment or by working together with specific target groups such as companies (access for local residents to charging points of e.g. supermarket)
- Envisage links and integration with the local 'tailored transport' strategy.
- Specific requirements in construction regulations (link parking standards to the use of sharing cars (e.g. Fewer parking spaces to be built for one sharing car), reserved spaces for sharing systems and charging poles, minimum number of charging poles, envisage infrastructure for pipelines (gutters, cables (in cooperation with Fluvius))
- Discourage the second resident card (by making it more expensive/restricting it)
- Envisage infrastructure for pipelines (gutters, cables, etc.)
- Agree with surrounding municipalities on the same incentivising policy
- As a priority, look where cycling paths can be built/renovated
- Set up a land bank for proactive purchases

3.3.5 Potential contribution of the Flemish government

- Flemish budget: start-up subsidies for electric sharing systems (€10 million)
- Flemish recovery plan: installation of charging poles (€15 million)
- Flemish inspiration paper to support local charging plans
 - Guide to local charging <u>Local charging | Vlaanderen.be</u>
 - Information on types of vehicles, charging points and the Flemish offering for local governments: <u>https://www.vlaanderen.be/milieuvriendelijke-voertuigen</u>
 - Map of charging points: <u>Charging poles | Flemish government (vlaanderen.be)</u>
 - Needs analysis and potential charging locations in major cities
 - Prepare an overarching inspiration plan for collective parking/parking ports at district level²⁴
- Flemish Parking Register to register shared cars so that all municipalities can easily implement free above-ground parking
- Develop a framework for a Flemish 'standard' recognition of a sharing organisation for the entire territory (along the lines of the LEZ).

²⁴ An effective and well thought-out spatial collective parking policy can help realise the four different working areas. Indeed, in addition to the impact of this parking policy on energy saving and mobility, this can free up space for further greening and depaving in the streetscape.

- Flemish budget + Flemish recovery plan:
 - Co-financing of the construction and structural maintenance of cycling paths and bicycle highways (via Cycling Fund and via local drawing rights with the Agency for Home Affairs (€150 million with 33% co-financing)) until 30/09/2022
 - Investment in cycling infrastructure (Copenhagen) | Local Government Flanders
 - Road safety on school routes (cycling infrastructure, traffic signals, infrastructure measures, speed traps, etc.): 50% co-financing (€15 million)
- Leadership role by electrifying/decarbonising own vehicle fleet and public transport
- Provide a model for improving emissions inventory by municipality for transport
- The Ecoscore website allows municipalities to look up the emissions and environmental friendliness of vehicles. The website also includes the FleetTool, a fleet management tool that shows key statistics at the vehicle and fleet level including average and total CO2 emissions. You will also find the Chassistool; this allows you to query emissions and the Ecoscore for passenger cars based on the chassis number. https://ecoscore.be/en/home
- Tools and information to develop an environmentally-friendly local mobility policy: <u>www.mimolo.be</u>
- The Department of Mobility and Public Works is mapping a lot of data through their Geoloket portal: <u>https://omgeving.vlaanderen.be/geoloketten</u>
- Recognise shared mobility providers and associated quality framework (accessibility, service offerings and monitoring)

3.3.6 Contribution to the Flemish energy and climate plan 2030 (VEKP)

 The previous version of the VEKP included a CO₂ reduction target of -23% for transport or residual emissions of 12.2 Mton. This will be recalculated in the context of the update of the VEKP (spring 2023) among other things as a result of the additional measures adopted in November 2021.

This is via modal shift (investments in public transport and cycling paths), organised spatial planning accessibility), extending the multimodal system (fewer kilometres driven) and greening the vehicle fleet/transport sector.

There is a focus on shared mobility, but without a specific objective. Through the actions of local governments in the area of shared mobility, we are accelerating and strengthening the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in order to realise the VEKP.

• Charging infrastructure: it is projected that electric cars will have a 50% share of all new cars sold by 2026, and this will reach 100% by 2030. As a result, more than 1 million electric cars are expected to be on Flemish roads by 2030. Since not everyone can charge their car at home or at work, 1 (semi-) public charging point is needed for every 10 electric cars. The LECP 2.0 therefore envisages 1.5 (semi-)public charging points per 100 inhabitants (= 99,000 charging points).

3.4 WORKING AREA 4: WATER, THE NEW GOLD (DROUGHT ISSUE)

3.4.1 Objective 2030

- 1 m^2 of depaying per resident from 2021 up to 2030 (= 6.6 million m² of depaying²⁵)
- Per resident, 1 m³ of additional rainwater collection for reuse, buffering and infiltration for rainwater from 2021 up to 2030 (=6.6 million m³ of additional rainwater collected for reuse or infiltration²⁶)

3.4.2 Added value of citizens

- Less heat stress
- Greener appearance (visually appealing)
- More green-blue veining
- Avoiding water shortages
- Avoiding flooding

3.4.3 Added value of local authorities

- Healthier and more pleasant living environment
- Exemplary role can be important local catalyst
- Less expenditure on water use can be used for other initiatives
- Citizen and district participation in choice of depaving sites

3.4.4 Potential contribution of local authorities

- Preparation of a rainwater and drought plan to identify opportunities and needs for collection, buffering, infiltration, etc.
- Initiator or facilitator, e.g. to facilitate collective buffer solutions at the district level (in urbanised areas it is often more difficult to envisage separate collection/infiltration capacity)
- Circular recovery solutions at the district level such as streets and SME zones (local treatment for gardens, sanitation, etc.)
- Financial or logistical support for districts that want to start depaving to foster rainwater infiltration (e.g. coupled with facade gardens, allotments and greenery beds)
- Support municipal schools that want to depave playgrounds
- Involve staff in saving (potable) water
- Look for additional possibilities for rainwater buffering (e.g.. Wadis on local property (e.g. For infiltration of rainwater on church roofs or along local roads), drainage water, make own land available, etc.)

²⁵ The follow-up of this objective is being looked into in collaboration with VMM and the Department of the Environment and Spatial Development. The objective is being assessed within the land take (situation at the end of 2020). The Spatial Policy Plan Flanders clarifies the following (freely translated): "Part of the land take consists of paving. Paving is an area where the nature and/or condition of the soil surface has been altered by the application of artificial, (semi-) impermeable materials, resulting in the loss of essential soil ecosystem functions (houses, roads, other structures, etc.). Paving equates to 'soil sealing' as inventoried across Flanders by AGIV. 16% of Flanders is paved."

²⁶ The objective here is to achieve a net increase in rainwater capture for reuse, buffering and infiltration within the current built environment. Collection or infiltration that is envisaged in new parcelled neighbourhoods (in the context of obligations (e.g. implementation of regional town planning regulations or imposed charges within the parcelling) is not included. Additional capacity envisaged for apartment buildings is however included. The follow-up of this objective is being looked into in collaboration with VMM and the Department of the Environment and Spatial Development.

- Make technical know-how available
- Focus on infiltration by e.g. installing small weirs in canals
- Water saving and rainwater recovery within government building stock

3.4.5 Potential contribution of the Flemish government

- Flemish Recovery Plan Blue Deal: Still to be translated concretely into implementation programmes, including 'Operation Perforation' to support depaving interventions by local governments and the 'Depaving Scan' which should result in a selection of depaving and greening projects
- Encourage the drafting of a local rainwater plan, green plan, adaptation plan according to the green-blue veining and the related inter-municipal cooperation.
- Technical know-how such as calculation tools via VMM, Vlario, etc.
 - o <u>https://www.vlario.be/dimensionering-infiltratievoorziening/</u>
 - Sirio calculation tool for rainwater facilities: <u>flyer</u> and <u>more info</u>
- Eliminate barriers in government's own regulations and procedures
- Facilitating regulatory framework on rainwater buffering, among other things
- Local pact for sewage projects version 2.0, partly focused on large-scale rainwater projects
- Depaving projects and rainwater recovery and infiltration in buildings managed by government

3.4.6 Contribution to the Flemish energy and climate plan 2030

- In the strategic vision Spatial Policy Plan Flanders, depaving is one of the targets
- Preventing paving, and depaving, contribute to LULUCF, i.e. carbon capture in soil. Flanders has committed to the no debit rule, i.e., keeping carbon at the same level in the soil.

4 FLESH OUT 'TO MEASURE IS TO KNOW': FINANCIAL AND SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING

293 signed the first pact by the end of October 2021. The remaining 7 can still sign up whenever they decide. The monitoring of the Pact is part of the democratic process in each municipality, including the approval of accession to the Pact by the municipal council. This municipal decision is uploaded via the Counter for local governments²⁷ of the Agency for Home Affairs.

4.1 FINANCIAL REPORTING VIA POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The working method of LECP 1.0 will be continued within LECP 2.0. The financial resources will be distributed as general funding among the municipalities according to population (80%) and according to the share of the Municipal Fund 2020 (20%). The funding thus obtained for each municipality will be set out in a list to be published on the website of the Agency for Home Affairs (see example LECP 1.0: Subsidy for climate actions to implement the Local Energy and Climate Pact (LECP | Local Government Flanders) . This drawing right is automatically increased, using the same distribution keys, by the rights of municipalities that have not signed and reported the LECP 2.0 to the Agency for Home Affairs on time, by **05/12/2022**.

As a reminder, the additional subsidy for signing the LECP 2.0 is the following for this legislature: $\in 8.75$ million for 2022, $\in 8.75$ million for 2023 and $\in 5$ million for 2024.

This funding is in addition to the established drawing rights for LECP 1.0 (€10 million per year and a fixed portion through the Flemish Climate Fund). The additional LECP 2.0 funds are recalculated annually among the number of participating local governments.

As with LECP 1.0, it is requested that the funds are used as co-financing: total spending on climate actions should be at least double the subsidies received. This is followed up in aggregate by the policy and management cycle reporting, by linking expenditures to the code ABB-LEKP-2022.

4.2 SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING: PACT PORTAL

The Pact Portal monitors the results by working area and by local government. Through the Pact Portal, local governments will be able to download an overview for their own territory. If they wish, they can supplement this overview, if an action is not captured via the source databases, as listed below. Once a year, these results are presented to the Municipal council depending on the LECP of the past year. Of course, dynamic discussions on progress can also take place within local environmental, 'GECORO' and other advisory councils. To follow up on the accomplishments under the LECP, the local government

²⁷ Accessible at <u>https://loket.lokaalbestuur.vlaanderen.be/</u>

uploads a municipal resolution of the annual discussion through the <u>Counter for Local Governments</u> (subsidy management module). This is done the first time before 1 March 2023, and then every year.

The Pact Portal shows the results of local governments for the 16 different objectives of the LECP 1.0 and the additional objectives of the LECP 2.0 over time. It is also possible to indicate a partnership with which you wish to jointly achieve the objectives of the Pact.

By the summer of 2022, it was possible to monitor 8 of the 16 objectives via the Pact Portal, with the remaining objectives following by the end of 2022. Be sure to take a look at the website (<u>Monitoring via</u> <u>Pact portal | Local Government Flanders</u>) for an informative video and more info on the monitoring solution itself, which is still continually being enhanced.

The Pact Portal collects authentic data from our partner organisations and makes it available to local governments in a user-friendly way. Local governments, citizens and other stakeholders already enter the necessary data within these partner organisations. The Pact Portal reuses this data so that there is as little additional monitoring burden as possible. The Pact Portal can be found at: <u>lokaalklimaatpact.be</u>.

5 OBJECTIVES AND AUTHENTIC SOURCES

5.1	GENERAL	OBJECTIVES	

Objective	Authentic source
Signing of the Mayors' Covenant 2030	VVSG
Achieve average annual primary energy savings of 2.09% in government buildings	VEKA in collaboration with Fluvius
LECP 2.0: extended to 3% ²⁸	

²⁸ The monitoring of the objective for the public building stock was sent via letter (23/11/21) to all local governments, by VEKA and the Agency for Home Affairs. Due to the lack of relevant consumption data for 2015, the reference year for the CO2 reduction target from the Coalition Agreement and the LECP 1.0 (-40% by 2030 compared to 2015) was changed to 2019, which is also the reference year for the energy savings target. As such, the stated CO2 reduction was recalculated proportionately, with the objective being -29.3% by 2030 compared to 2019. The more stringent target from this LECP 2.0 (-55% by 2030 compared to 2019) was recalculated proportionately to reference year 2019, for the same reason and in the same way. This objective is therefore -40.3% by 2030 compared to 2019. An overview of the method for data gathering and monitoring can be found here: <u>opzet_monitoring_co2_reductie_en_energiebesparing_patrimonium_gemeenten.pdf</u> (vlaanderen.be). VEKA and the Agency for Home Affairs will communicate a modified working method for data gathering and monitoring regarding the more stringent objectives for local government mobility included in this LECP 2.0.

Objective	Authentic source
To achieve a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions from local government buildings and technical infrastructure by 2030 compared to 2015.	VEKA in collaboration with Fluvius
LECP 2.0: extended to 55% by 2030, and in terms of scope, incl. mobility ²⁹ .	
Public lighting switched to LEDs by 2030	Fluvius
No tax on renewable energy installations and phase out existing taxes, such as the tax on wind turbine pylons, by 2025 at the latest LECP 2.0: expanded to no new tax introduced on ELIA's electricity pylons and trenches	the Agency for Home Affairs, via the Counter for Local Government in collaboration with Elia (for the tax on Elia's pylons and trenches)
Draft local heat and demolition plans	Heat plans: VVSG, Heat zoning inspiration map Demolition policy plan: can come from the district renovation tool. The VVSG Climate Network will commission a supporting start- up analysis for this.

5.2 OBJECTIVES WORKING AREA 1: LET'S PLANT A TREE (GREENING)

Objective	Authentic source
One additional tree per person in Flanders by 2030 (+6.6 million additional trees from 2021 up to 2030)	Green blue level (GBL)
1/2 metre of additional hedge or façade garden planting by each person in Flanders by 2030 (an additional 3,300 km from 2021 up to 2030)	GBL
One additional natural green bed per 1,000 inhabitants by 2030 (= 6,600 beds of 10 m^2 from 2021 up to 2030)	GBL

²⁹ Same as footnote 27.

5.3 OBJECTIVES WORKING AREA 2: ENRICH YOUR DISTRICT (RENOVATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY)

Objective	Authentic source
50 collectively organised, energy-saving renovations per 1,000 housing units from 2021 up to 2030	Fluvius (collective renovation assistance ("Neighbourhood
LECP 2.0: expanded to 25 fossil-free renovations and organisation of local climate tables.	premium") will be linked in the first instance. Other sources
Renovations in residential buildings (apartments) always count as collective renovations, as clarified in footnote 15.	(including distress purchase fund, co- owners' association - BENOvation guidance and an open data entry option) will subsequently follow.
1 cooperative/participatory renewable energy project per 500 residents by 2030 providing a total installed capacity of 216 MW from 2021 up to 2030 (+12,000 projects by 2030)	Energy map VEKA

5.4 OBJECTIVE WORKING AREA 3: EVERY DISTRICT SHARES (CARBON-FREE (SHARING) MOBILITY) AND IS SUSTAINABLY ACCESSIBLE

Objective	Authentic source
Per 1,000 inhabitants, 1 'access point' for a (carbon-free) sharing system by 2030 (=6,600 access points)	Autodelen.net
Per 100 residents, 1 charging point by 2030 (= 66,000 charging points)	Eco-movement ³⁰
LECP 2.0: extended to 1.5 charging points per 100 residents. The count per charge point (CPE) is clarified in footnote 17.	

³⁰ Accessible at <u>https://mow.vlaanderen.be/laadpalen/</u>

Objective	Authentic source
1 m of new or structurally upgraded additional cycling paths per resident from 2021 up to 2030	 Mobility and Public Works (projects supported by Cycling Fund + investment projects of Mobility and Public Works based on commitments) Agency for Home Affairs / Local governments (Copenhagen Fund / self- funded construction or upgrading of cycling paths along municipal roads)

5.5 OBJECTIVE WORKING AREA 4: WATER, THE NEW GOLD (DROUGHT ISSUE)

Objective	Authentic source
1 m^2 of depaving per resident from 2021 up to 2030 (= 6.6 million m ² of depaving)	GBL
Per resident, 1 m ³ of additional rainwater collection for reuse, buffering and infiltration for rainwater from 2021 up to 2030 (=6.6 million m ³ of additional rainwater collected for reuse or infiltration)	GBL

5.6 ACCOMPANYING SUPPORT AND OTHER DATA LINKS

5.6.1 LECP wide:

- Overarching data thanks to the 'Provincies in Cijfers' (Provinces in Figures) database provides key figures and standardised reports for space (including paving), climate (current greenhouse gas emissions) and energy (including public lighting), among others: https://provincies.incijfers.be/dashboard/dashboard/klimaat/.
- VSDO 4, new transition priority "environment for the future," focuses on space, climate adaptation and biodiversity: <u>https://beslissingenvlaamseregering.vlaanderen.be/document-view/61A09A14364ED90008000146</u>
- Concept paper shift in construction: <u>https://omgeving.vlaanderen.be/realisatie-van-een-bouwshift</u>

5.6.2 By theme:

- The Mayors' Covenant already stipulates various reporting and monitoring steps. We want to build on this as much as possible and strive to ensure that a local government has less hassle in planning, not more. For example, within two years of signing the Mayors' Covenant, a local government must prepare an "Action Plan for Sustainable Energy and Climate" and have it approved by the Municipal council. This includes the greenhouse gas reduction target, an adaptation strategy and respective action measures including the focus on energy poverty. As such, we do not request separate plans under the LECP. 297 out of 300 local governments have committed to preparing these plans in the context of this European initiative, an excellent achievement for our region. There are two links to further reporting via the Mayors' Covenant:
 - the emissions inventory (drawn up by VITO); this can be enhanced by entering data on the local building stock or public lighting in advance, for example. Every 4 years, the municipality must report on this "Monitoring Emission Inventory (MEI)." Links to the data portal may be possible with regard to consumption data for the local government building stock, vehicle fleet and municipal public lighting. Accessed at: <u>http://www.burgemeestersconvenant.be/co2-inventarissen</u>. For each municipality, it contains (broken down by sector and fuel type) the final energy consumption and CO2 emissions used in the territory of the municipality³¹.
 - 'Action Reporting' in which cities report on actions. If the LECP actions are the same as the SECAP actions, then this can also be reprised.
- Regarding the **public building stock**:
 - The monitoring of the objective for the public building stock was sent via letter (23/11/21) to all local governments, by VEKA and the Agency for Home Affairs. You can read an overview of the method for data gathering and monitoring here

³¹ Underlying Open Datasets: <u>https://www.burgemeestersconvenant.be/open-datasets-burgemeestersconvenant</u>

https://lokaalbestuur.vlaanderen.be/sites/default/files/public/thema/Relance/opzet_mon itoring_co2_reductie_en_energiebesparing_patrimonium_gemeenten.pdf VEKA and the Agency for Home Affairs will communicate a modified working method for data gathering and monitoring regarding the more stringent objectives for local government buildings and mobility included in this LECP 2.0.

- EPC public buildings on the open data portal: https://opendata.vlaanderen.be/dataset/energieprestatiecertificaten-voor-publiekegebouwen. All data regarding EPCs drawn up for public buildings can be found on the Flemish open data portal. From this, information on annual consumption, area, key figures of public buildings can be obtained for each municipality.
- The energy management tool E-Lyse (Fluvius) provides insight into the energy consumption of the building stock owned/managed by the local governments³²: https://www.fluvius.be/energiemanagement.
- The Facilitair Bedrijf (Agency for Facility Operations), VEKA, Flemish Agency for Public Sector Energy Saving and Department of Information Flanders are jointly developing the **TERRA platform**: Flanders' building stock and energy database. In addition to energy information and characteristics of public buildings and infrastructure, a dynamic action plan for energy saving measures can be analysed and monitored³³: <u>https://terra.vlaanderen.be/</u>
- Regarding the **potential and availability of renewable energy in the territory of cities and municipalities**:
 - Figures on green energy in Flanders: Energy map: https://www.energiesparen.be/energiekaart
 - Figures on potential and installed capacity of solar energy in each municipality: <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/zonnekaart</u> and <u>https://www.energiesparen.be/zonnekaart/FAQ/cijfers</u>
 - Near-real time info green electricity by municipality via power predictor (<u>https://apps.energiesparen.be/stroomvoorspeller</u>)
 - Energy cooperatives (https://apps.energiesparen.be/energiekaart/vlaanderen/cooperaties)
- Regarding the **general renovation objective**:
 - **Public renovation plans (long-term real estate strategy)**: Support (templates, knowledge and coaching) is provided by the Flemish consortium behind https://sure2050.be/.
 - Heat Plans Heat Map Flanders: <u>https://www.geopunt.be/kaart</u> and click through to Energy / Heat Maps to see where there are already heat grids and where there are still

³² This data makes it possible to monitor the objectives of 2.09% annual primary energy savings and 40% CO2 reduction within the local government building stock.
³³ The amended energy decree of 08/05/2009 (amendment approved on 28/10/2020) has allowed the system operator and the Flemish Agency for Public Sector Energy Saving to further cooperate in the field of energy management systems and supporting local governments in the energy management of their building stock.

promising areas to build these and recover available waste heat, among other things. In addition, you can find information on a local heat plan via the VVSG Heat Zoning Inspiration Map: <u>https://www.vvsg.be/kennisitem/vvsg/warmte</u>

- Educational platform BE REEL: <u>https://www.be-reel.be/</u>
- Regarding adaptation working areas 1 and 4:
 - **Climate Portal Flanders** brings together the latest information on climate change and maps it in detail for Flanders down to the district level: <u>https://klimaat.vmm.be/</u>.
 - The **Green Blue Level** provides insight into the extent to which a plot is climate-resilient based on blue (rainwater management) and green (biodiversity, carbon storage, air quality, cooling) parameters. The goal of the green blue level is to raise citizens' awareness by suggesting blue or green measures to make their plot more climate-resilient: https://www.groenblauwpeil.be/.

6 FINAL WORD REGARDING ENGAGEMENT LECP 2.0

Due to the additional climate measures taken by the Flemish government (05/11/21) and Europe's climate ambition (Fit for 55), this supplement shifts up a gear from the first Local Energy and Climate Pact. Building further on the range of actions initiated by the LECP 1.0, local governments can choose to sign on to these updated goals, as summarised in the first chapter. To this end, a bonus budget of €22.5 million spread over this legislature is envisaged as additional support.

The mutual commitments in the context of LECP 1.0 remain in force. For example, the same budget will be available in 2022 as in 2021 for the participating governments in the LECP 1.0. This initiative should therefore be seen purely as an additional impetus to go further. By signing the LECP 1.0 and/or LECP 2.0, the local government makes a commitment to these climate goals up to 31 December 2030. The clear language of tangible, numerical targets by number of residents has been retained. In addition, the importance of an integrated approach in developing the four working areas was emphasised. For example, the synergies that can be exploited when looking at implementation through a qualitative spatial lens, the importance of promoting social cohesion through increased participation, and embracing collective implementation. Challenges such as energy, and mobility poverty, tenant-landlord situations in renovations and the mobilisation of sufficient investment funds are some of the issues we want to tackle through closer cooperation between the participating local governments.

From 1 July 2022, any city or municipality will be able to sign this renewed pact, and this sends a strong signal for climate action in cooperation with other governments and local actors.

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