



# World Sustainable Energy Days 2020

## 4 – 6 March 2020

### These were the World Sustainable Energy Days 2020

The clean energy transition is taking on a new dynamic in Europe and worldwide. "Energy efficiency first" and "global leadership in renewables" are at the centre of this transformation process. This requires strong policies, competitive businesses, technology innovation, investments and the involvement of the citizens. By addressing these topics and more, the World Sustainable Energy Days 2020 attracted nearly 600 participants from over 50 countries. The event took place from 4 – 6 March this year and offered the dedicated conferences, technical site visits and a leading tradeshow on renewable energy and energy efficiency.



### The conference programme

The European Union has made the commitment to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The World Sustainable Energy Days as an international event on achieving global climate neutrality have shown how this can be done:

- European Pellet Conference
- Young Energy Researchers Conference
- European Energy Efficiency Conference
- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Workshop "New opportunities for energy agencies"
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference
- Green Financing Workshop
- Smart E-Mobility Conference

**Networking** was a focal point of the interactive events: the "Energiesparmesse" (a major tradeshow on renewable energy and energy efficiency), the site visits ("Pellets & Wood Chips" and "Energy Efficiency") and the poster presentations.





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### European Pellet Conference

Biomass is a cornerstone for the success of the clean energy transition in Europe and globally. Pellets are a clean, CO<sub>2</sub> neutral and convenient fuel with growing market shares worldwide. The European Pellet Conference 2020 in Wels/Austria was once again the meeting place for the global pellet community. It presented the latest technology trends, updates on policies, legislation and standardisation, news from research and innovation, an outlook on the developments of European and global markets, pilot projects and innovative business models. The event permitted experts to exchange experience and develop new business contacts. With more than 400 participants every year, the European Pellet Conference in Wels is the largest annual pellet event in the world.



The European Pellet Conference 2020 started on Wednesday with the strategy session "No energy transition without pellets!", which showed why it is essential to position pellets as an important solution of climate policy and how this could be done. Afterwards the panel discussion "Pellets – Winners or losers of the climate crisis?" took place. International experts shared their views and insights on burning topics about the future of pellets and the development of pellet markets.

Other highlights of the pellets conference were the best practice session "Pellets in action", where innovative pellet technologies, projects and financing solutions from around the globe were showcased, and the "Pellet Innovation Circle", which presented results from R&D projects and pellet technologies for tomorrow. On Thursday, 5 March, a market update session on news from European and global pellet markets took place.





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### Site Visits "Pellets & Wood Chips"

On Tuesday, prior to the European Pellet Conference, a full-day field-trip on "Pellets & Wood Chips" took place. Four stops were on the programme: a biomass boiler manufacturer, an ESCO-operated pellet heating system for a 4-star hotel, a biomass CHP plant for a farm and a container solution pellet heating.



The participants welcomed the opportunity to gain first-hand information and to discuss specific questions on-site with the project operators.

### Young Energy Researchers Conference



In the context of a call for papers, young researchers from all over the world were invited to submit their work in the fields of biomass and energy efficiency. More than 110 papers were submitted from 44 countries. A scientific committee selected papers for oral and poster presentations. The papers were presented in two sessions: biomass and energy efficiency as well as in the context of the poster presentations.



The Best Young Energy Researcher Awards were a highlight of the Young Energy Researchers Conference. The awards were presented to:

- Best Young Biomass Researchers: Diego Alejandro Quan Reyes and Avishek Goel for the paper: "Evaluating the performance of biomass cookstoves in rural Guatemala"
- Best Young Energy Efficiency Researcher: Noémie Chagnon-Lessard for the paper "New cascade design technique for higher efficiency ORC systems"



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### European Energy Efficiency Conference

Becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 is an ambitious goal which requires ambitious measures. Energy efficiency as the "first fuel" of the energy transition is at the centre of this roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable. The European Energy Efficiency Conference 2020 offered delegates a comprehensive package:

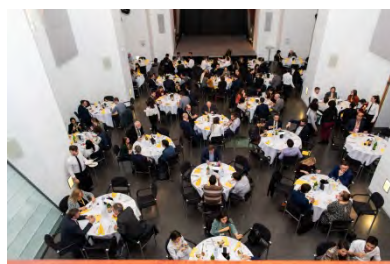
- 5 dedicated conferences
- technical visits to innovative energy efficiency projects
- a major tradeshow on building efficiency and renewable energy with more than 80,000 visitors and 1,600 exhibiting companies

The event addressed a range of topics in this field. It put the policy focus on Europe's new Green Deal, showcased industrial energy efficiency, informed about new possibilities for energy agencies and presented innovations in green financing and smart e-mobility. Experts from all over the world discussed latest research results and successful energy efficiency policies and programmes and presented innovative best practice examples.



### The following events were part of the European Energy Efficiency Conference:

- Energy Efficiency Policy Conference
- Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference
- Workshop "New opportunities for energy agencies"
- Green Financing Workshop
- Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference
- Smart E-Mobility Conference
- Technical Site Visits: Energy Efficiency





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### Energy Efficiency Policy Conference

The Energy Efficiency Policy Conference took place on Thursday, 4 March, and started with the session "Europe's new Green Deal: Energy efficiency at the centre", followed by the "Narrative Session: Creating a better society through the local energy transition", which included an interactive platform in the context of a large EU survey, the panel discussion "Young voices for the energy transition" and presentations of convincing examples showing how, on the local level, a better society is already being created through the energy transition. This conference was organised in the context of the H2020 "Energy Efficiency Watch 4" project: [www.energy-efficiency-watch.org](http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org)



### Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference

Independence from fossil energy is becoming a key factor for industrial competitiveness. Following automation and digitisation, industry decarbonisation ("Industry 5.0") will characterise the next big step in the industrial transformation. The Industrial Energy Efficiency Conference presented programmes and strategies paving the way for the industrial energy transition. Artificial Intelligence, international collaboration and R & D were presented as a part of the session "game changers for the industrial energy transition". The session "Energy Efficiency in Action: Leaders in decarbonisation" showed how leading industrial companies stay competitive in a changing world through the energy transition.





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### Workshop "New opportunities for energy agencies" ManagEnergy Networking Event

ManagEnergy

This interactive networking event offered tailored information for energy agencies on how to create new opportunities for their organisations with the Green Deal. The workshop started with information on EU policies and programmes for energy agencies and proceeded with the session "From inspiration to action: venturing into new fields". The event was organised in the context of the ManagEnergy initiative:

[www.managenergy.net](http://www.managenergy.net)



### Smart E-Mobility Conference



The international Smart E-Mobility Conference offered insights into current market developments and the economic impacts of the e-mobility trend. The strategy and market session "E-Mobility on the move" presented how the energy transition in the mobility sector is progressing. An innovation circle on batteries presented R&D trends in battery materials and systems, life cycle assessments and possibilities for the re-use of car batteries. A best practice session "Electrify your fleet" showcased about ambitious companies that have already electrified their fleets and are now harvesting the benefits.





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### Green Financing Workshop



The "Green Financing Workshop" on Thursday afternoon presented a toolbox of smart financing instruments and showing which instruments work in what contexts and how they can be successfully applied and included a peer-to-peer learning session. The workshop was organised in the context of the H2020 Prospect project:

<https://h2020prospect.eu>



### Technical Site Visits: Energy Efficiency



The World Sustainable Energy Days came to an end with the excursion "Site Visits: Energy Efficiency", an afternoon trip to the Fronius research and development site in Thalheim bei Wels and a refurbished elementary school in the municipality of Ungenach. The excursion offered an excellent opportunity to learn more about energy efficient technologies, buildings and projects in practice.





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### Further programme elements of the WSED 2020

#### Workshop Horizon2020

The workshop was organised in cooperation with the network of Energy National Contact Points (NCPs, [www.c-energy2020.eu](http://www.c-energy2020.eu)) and provided valuable information about the Horizon2020 programme, especially for young energy researchers.



#### Poster presentation

A poster presentation was organised as an integrated part of the WSED. Over 40 companies and organisations took this opportunity to showcase their energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Part of the poster presentation was dedicated to Young Energy Researchers.



#### Voting

An interactive element, "the voting", was an integrated part of the conference procedure. During the sessions, the audience was invited to answer questions regarding its behaviour and opinions on various conference topics. The results of the voting can be found on the conference website [www.wsed.at](http://www.wsed.at)







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### Energiesparmesse - a leading European sustainable energy tradeshow

The "Energiesparmesse", a leading tradeshow on energy efficiency and renewable energy with nearly 80,000 visitors (including over 30,000 professional visitors) and 1,600 exhibiting companies took place in parallel to the World Sustainable Energy Days.



The OÖ Energiesparverband presented its comprehensive services at a large exhibition stand in Hall 20 where energy advisers were available to offer advice and information on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. In addition, three special exhibitions were presented in cooperation with the Messe Wels and the region of Upper Austria: "Biomass Innovations", "E-Cars & Smart Home" and "AdieuÖl – Goodbye Oil". Another special exhibition was dedicated to building materials.

